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US warning over Moscow meeting

Thatcher told not to talk about Trident

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE White House has warned Mrs Margaret Thatcher not to raise the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent when she meets President Gorbachov tomorrow.

In a surprise move concerning the most sensitive issue of Anglo-American relations, President Bush's national security adviser, General Brent Scowcroft, has urged that the Prime Minister give up her plan to reassure Moscow about the "minimum" nature of the Trident programme.

Earlier this week, Downing Street sources let it be known that Mrs Thatcher would intervene personally with the Soviet leader on the Trident question. Her message would be that Britain's tiny proportion of the world's strategic arsenal should not be included in negotiations.

British fears had been raised by reports that the US programme of supplying Trident missiles to Britain was the "number one" obstacle to a strategic arms reduction (Start) treaty. According to some accounts, the Soviet side insisted that commitments be included in the deal that would make the Trident D-5 programme the last Mr Bush warned Mrs Thatcher during their 20-minute telephone conversation on Sunday of Soviet concerns that the 1958 Polaris Agreement between Britain and the US might be used to circumvent a Start treaty by transferring more nuclear armaments to Britain.

Throughout the summit,

Soviet arms controllers had played what one US official yesterday described as "tricky games". Although they had asked tough new questions, including a number about the British deterrent, it was unclear how determined they were to secure formal concessions from the Americans on the "non-circumvention" clauses.

Mrs Thatcher was willing to soothe any fears Mr Gorbachov may have expressed tomorrow by emphasizing that she was interested only in maintaining the minimum credible deterrent and would not assist in circumventing any strategic arms deal. Washington was told about Mrs Thatcher's Moscow plans and appeared to make no objection. On Wednesday, however, the White House decided that discretion would be the better part of diplomacy when the Prime Minister met Mr Gorbachov. "If Gorbachov gets into the issue, there's not much we can do," an American government official said. "But for our part we see this as a US-Soviet business."

The surprise American warning caused concern among British observers who, while accepting US commitments to the continuing support of Britain's independent nuclear status, are ever nervous at new threats to its future.

It was Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, who described the agreement to supply nuclear capability to the UK as the "number one" problem for Start, placing it above the testing of the Soviet Union's SS-18 missiles and the classification of its Backfire bomber. Both Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov have said they want to sign a Start deal by the end of the year and Mr Baker's role will be to make sure that nothing stands in the way.

"This is all Soviet bluster - Viktor Karpov at play," one expert said yesterday. But others believe Soviet concerns about the British deterrent will become more acute as superpower missiles and warheads are reduced.

The statement of agreement on Start, signed in Washington last Friday, was the first commitment by the superpowers to cut, rather than merely control, the numbers of their strategic weapons. If a Start deal is signed, the two leaders have said that they wish to go into a second round of negotiations. Start 2, could bring the level of strategic warheads on each side to below five thousand. British possession of some 700 warheads would then be a legiti-

mate Soviet concern, some observers feel.

The British deterrent is excluded from the "non-circumvention" restrictions as a result of America's insistence on protecting its "existing patterns of co-operation". The Americans made clear at a high level this week that there has been no change in US policy. Mrs Thatcher will be concerned to avoid any commitment by the US that the D-5 Trident missile will be the last transfer of nuclear weapons technology across the Atlantic, since the knowledge that Trident would not be replaced would inevitably undermine its political authority as a deterrent.

She also knows that, because the British Trident force will still be so much smaller than that of the US, its missiles may have to carry more warheads than those of the Americans. That, too, may raise political pressures.

This year's defence white paper said that Britain would consider how best it might contribute to the arms control process if the US and Soviet nuclear arsenals were reduced "very substantially", but it said reductions in those arsenals would have to go much further "before we could even consider including the British deterrent in any future negotiations".

Mrs Thatcher will fly to Moscow tonight after addressing the Nato foreign ministers in Turnberry. She will have two hours of talks with Mr Gorbachov tomorrow, followed by a working lunch and talks with the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov and Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov.

She will not, as had been hoped, see Mr Gorbachov on Saturday. With the Supreme Soviet sitting over the weekend, the Soviet leader had to prepare a speech on his economic reform programme to deliver on Monday.

The Prime Minister yesterday expressed her full support for Mr Gorbachov and those reforms in an interview with Tass in which she said his decision to move to a market economy was the right one. She declined to express an opinion on whether the plans should be revised in the wake of public protests and panic buying, but said: "Economic reform is always painful in its early stages." It was the only way to ensure "an effective, prosperous and stable economy for the future".

Nato talks, page 8
Jargon of peace, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Soviet turmoil, page 22

English fans held after 'mini-riot' in Tunisia

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, TUNIS

FOURTEEN English football supporters in Tunisia for a friendly football match will appear in court today after a drunken rampage through the Hammamet holiday resort.

Trouble began when they were thrown out of a discotheque in the early hours of Tuesday morning and refused entry to another. In what was described as a mini-riot, the British Embassy said the supporters were alleged to have smashed the windows of three tourist coaches and three

taxis. They also denied the bodywork of the taxis, causing around £6,000 damage.

Other reports say that Tunisian youths angered the fans by taunting them over the match result - a 1-1 draw.

The supporters, in their mid-twenties, were in court yesterday for a preliminary hearing and will today face a full hearing. If found guilty, they could be jailed for up to five years.

World Cup, pages 43,44

Canterbury dark horse frightens the bookies

By ALAN HAMILTON

WILLIAM Hill, the bookmakers, suspended betting on another big race yesterday after a sudden and inexplicable rush of interest in a relative outsider. Suspensions were aroused when a string of punters wished, apparently out of the blue, to wager up to £1,000 on the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

When Hills opened their ecclesiastical book in March, St Albans attracted little interest as a 10-1 outsider during the occasional modest investment of no more than £20. Yesterday morning, as their offices were more preoccupied with the Derby, Hills accepted several bets of £200. As lunchtime approached, and punters tried to place even greater wagers, including one of £1,000 at their branch nearest to Church House, West-

minster, alarm bells rang and the book was quickly closed. "We would like to know what these people know," a Hills spokesman said. "We do not, unfortunately, have a direct line to the Almighty." Until yesterday Hills' favourite had been the Right Rev John Waine, Bishop of Chelmsford, at 11-4. Even in Anglican circles, St Albans has not hitherto been regarded as being up among the front runners. The Crown Appointments Commission, which after much deliberation will put up two names for the Prime Minister's consideration, has not even met. An informed leak therefore appeared unlikely.

Later in the day the mystery was partly clarified. The Church of England Newspaper had published an opinion poll giving St Albans 42 per cent of the vote, and making him clear favourite in that particular camp. The newspaper is re-

garded as an organ of the Evangelical wing of the Church, to whom St Albans has particular appeal.

Hills said that they would reopen the book by the end of the week, provided they were satisfied that no other skulduggery was afoot. St Albans will then probably lead the field as 2-1 favourite. Ladbrokes, on the other hand, were entirely unconcerned. Their book, which has Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, as favourite at 3-1, remained open to all investors. Their spokesman did admit, however, that St Albans had moved in from a 14-1 outsider to 4-1 fourth favourite in the past three weeks.

Bishop Taylor yesterday congratulated Hills on their prudence, and advised them to close their book permanently. "I do not regard myself as a horse," he said.



Easy going: Two Derby Day racegoers in traditional dress and traditional pose discussing form before the rains came down at Epsom yesterday

Wet and windy winning Quest

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE withdrawal of so many fancied runners meant that this year's race had been unkindly dubbed the Donkey Derby. Ante-post betting was down by a third, and Epsom Downs showed much empty grass. But all the old regulars were there: five Gipsy Rose, one Rosa, one Frisella, and, inexplicably, a Gipsy Doreen Lee doing brisk business reading palms and tea-leaves among the screams of riders in the furlong, and the all-pervading scent of ham-burgers and onions.

If the event proved more colourful than usual it was, finally, because of the rain. Women who defied the weather forecast - wet and windy - and sported wide-brimmed millinery were obliged to titter around with one hand planted firmly on their heads. When the rain began to fall, just in time for the first race, it produced a plethora of large and brilliantly-coloured umbrellas in the enclosures and along the rails.

Before the big race the Queen, in canary yellow, and Queen Elizabeth, in pale primrose, made their traditional walk down the course to the paddock. The Queen Mother made the going - officially described as good - look pretty easy for an 89-year-old, though she did accept a limousine ride back.

As the rain set in more earnestly over the Derby runners' parade the Queen Mother raised her own umbrella - a transparent cloche, creating her own greenhouse effect while retaining good visibility. The Queen went for unadorned, functional black.

When the race was run, Quest for Fame proved a conclusive and popular winner. He was still slobbering effusively over his stable lad's jacket in the winner's enclosure, when driving drizzle persuaded many racegoers to head for home.

Derby reports, pages 40,41,44

European vets back Gummer by declaring British beef safe

FROM MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, IN BRUSSELS

A COMMITTEE of European veterinary experts ruled yesterday that British beef was safe to eat, crucially reinforcing the position of Mr John Gummer, the Agriculture Minister, as he fought a stiff battle to get French, West German and Italian import bans lifted.

As Mr Gummer arrived here for a meeting with European Community counterparts, Italy disclosed it had also imposed a ban on British beef but had hitherto omitted to tell anyone. "We do things quietly in Italy," an Italian government spokesman said. The Italians bought 2,100 tonnes of British beef last year, worth £6.5 million.

Mr Gummer, hailing the verdict of the EC's scientific veterinary committee, said: "We have always said we would accept the scientific evidence. What the scientists have asked us to do, we are already doing, and will continue to do. We are legally correct, and what we want is

perfectly reasonable. Our case is very good."

After four hours of talks, a spokesman for Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Agriculture Minister, who was chairing the meeting, said he was not optimistic that there would be an early settlement.

M Henri Nallet, the French minister, said the committee had not removed scientific uncertainty about whether bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) could be transmitted to humans and extra Community-wide measures were needed to prevent "the type of psychosis that has affected British consumers" from spreading to the rest of the EC.

French sources said M Nallet wanted all beef exported from Britain to be accompanied by a veterinary certificate stating it came from animals which, by post-mortem brain examination, were shown to be free of BSE. The Italian and West German ministers insisted that they

had acted simply to protect public health. Mr Gummer said the import bans were pure trade protectionism.

France last week banned the 70,000 tonnes of beef and 160,000 live cattle it normally imports from Britain, ostensibly to protect its consumers against possible infection by BSE. The trade was worth £183 million last year, France accounting for more than half of Britain's worldwide beef and cattle exports.

The French move prompted West Germany, which since the start of the year had been operating much more limited restrictions on health grounds, to follow suit because of fears that British beef no longer able to enter France would swamp the West German market. The bans are estimated to be costing Britain £500,000 a day in lost export earnings. The West German Farmers' Federation yesterday called for an immediate ban on the import of calves from Britain. Mr Gummer refused to be drawn

on possible retaliation if the bans were not lifted. "I particularly dislike the word 'retaliation'. I want a return to legality. It is not in anybody's interest to undermine the Community. I want to win this battle on the basis of the scientific evidence."

British farmers have called for a ban on EC beef imports - some 184,000 tonnes last year. Ireland, the largest supplier, has not banned UK beef.

If Mr Gummer were to retaliate, eggs and dairy products might be a more likely target. Britain could claim there is a listeria threat from French soft cheeses. The British egg-laying poultry flock is subject to much stronger anti-salmonella measures than are enforced in other countries and British poultry farmers have been pressing for months for curbs on egg imports.

Portugal has banned the import of British cattle because of fears over BSE.

Tokyo notebook, page 11

Labour undercuts Tories on CO₂

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE political battle over the environment intensified yesterday when Labour, in its most serious environmental commitment so far, pledged to stabilize Britain's emissions of carbon dioxide five years ahead of the Government's target date of 2005.

Mrs Thatcher was said yesterday to regard such a target as impossible to achieve at an acceptable cost to employment and living standards. Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, warned that it would involve "major disruption to the economy".

In the background was a furious row over Labour charges that the Government had massaged the figures over CO₂ emissions, which are largely responsible for global warming, to make its own efforts look more favourable.

That was vehemently denied in government circles.

Mr Bryan Gould and Mr Frank Dobson, spokesmen for the environment and energy, committed Labour to the European Commission's proposals for stabilization by 2000. This will be resisted by Mr Patten at what is expected to be a stormy meeting of European environment ministers in Luxembourg today and tomorrow.

Last week Mr Jonathon Porritt, the retiring director of Friends of the Earth, said that Labour's lack of a CO₂ target was "a worrying touchstone of their green seriousness." But yesterday Mr Gould and Mr Dobson said Labour was drawing up a strategy for the 2000 target, which would be published in its "Alternative

Continued on page 22, col 7

INDEX	
Arts	18,19
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Books	17
Business	23-27
Court & Social	14
Crosswords	15,22
Health	16
Law	38
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Parliament	7
Science & Technology	33-36
Sport	38-44
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22



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Zero alcohol limit for young drivers has built-in drawbacks

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 20 deaths and serious injuries every day among young drivers has convinced Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, that they must be the target of special legislation.

Evidence compiled by Department of Transport researchers shows that drivers in the 18-30 age group accounted for almost half of all road deaths and serious injuries in 1988-7,852 out of 17,576. The carnage is even worse in the key group of 20 to 24 year olds. Almost 3,650 were killed or seriously injured in the same year.

Worse still, roadside tests carried out by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory show that drivers between the ages of 20 and 30 are the most likely to be over the legal alcohol limit behind the wheel. Almost 67 per cent of drivers

up to twice the limit came from that age group. Despite the mounting evidence, Britain has lagged behind much of Europe and the rest of the world in pinpointing the young or inexperienced driver as a high risk road user. France, West Germany, Portugal, Finland, Japan, Australia and Northern Ireland have schemes aimed at reining in the young motorist who passes his or her test and takes straight to the roads.

What Mr Parkinson will have to decide after consultations with motoring organizations, police and pressure groups is how far he can go in selecting one group for especially tough treatment. The most radical proposal - to enforce a zero alcohol limit on newly qualified drivers for the first two years of motoring - seems unworkable at the outset. It was greeted with derision by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, who said the

clackdown could mean that "even a wine gum or taking a snuff at the barmaid's apron" could convict people.

Police officers say that a zero limit could cause more problems than benefits. They maintain their belief that random testing is still the best deterrent against drinking and driving for any age group. Mr Walter Givens, chief constable of Wiltshire and secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, said yesterday: "It has been shown that alcohol can stay in the blood for some time. We foresee difficulties where a new driver had a drink one day and still has traces of alcohol the next when he or she is tested."

Another drawback is that identification of newly qualified drivers may prove difficult as driving test pass dates are not printed on licences at the moment. However, police may still be

receptive to a scheme to force such drivers to be identified with a designation plate on their cars and face restrictions on driving.

New drivers in Northern Ireland are forced to carry an "R" plate (denoting restricted) for one year after passing their driving test and are restricted to a 45mph maximum speed. It was enough to reduce accidents.

A French scheme seems to have been more successful. There new drivers are limited to a top speed of 90 kmph (56 mph) for a year, and display a white 90 speed restriction plate on their cars. Authorities say it has helped to reduce accidents by about 15 per cent.

New drivers in West Germany do not suffer speed restrictions, but they do face a strict system of punishment by instruction. All drivers who rack up points for driving offences are eventually sent back for driving lessons, for which they pay

in addition to any fines. The points tally is reached quicker by a driver in the first two years after qualification and the teaching more expensive. In some cases, they must retest their driving test. Accidents have gone down between ten and 15 per cent, but police say traffic violations have been cut by half as a result.

Mr Parkinson is known to favour the "P" plate (to denote probationer for new drivers) scheme and probably a similar idea for convicted drunk drivers who would have an "R" plate on returning to the road.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "There is a growing realization that if you break the law and drink is involved you are in trouble. So the fact that there is a law will make people very chary of breaking it."

Leading article, page 13

Airline chief attacks government controls

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways' continuing frustration at the Government's refusal to allow it unlimited room for expansion erupted last night in a hard-hitting speech from Lord King of Wrenbury, its chairman.

Lord King, who is furious at the decision to ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the airline's attempt to take a 20 per cent stake in Sabena World Airways, launched into a bitter attack, claiming that he was struggling "against not only the efforts of our competitors but the shackles imposed by our own government."

"I have no intention of dying a death by a thousand cuts," he said at the City banquet in the Mansion House. "The Secretary of State will finally either permit or block our participation in the Brussels hub. The future will not be determined by the UK Government, but our government may well decide whether we are to be part of that future."

Speaking on the spot where Churchill made one of his memorable wartime speeches, Lord King said: "On June 4 50 years ago we were called to prepare ourselves to fight on the beaches and on the landing grounds. The tide of commercial conflict has rolled over the beaches and the battle for the landing grounds has already been joined."

"The gateways of today are the airfields deep in the territories which they serve. A commercial battle is raging on the landing grounds of Europe which will determine whether

London will remain Europe's principal gateway for long-haul traffic or be displaced by Paris, Frankfurt or Amsterdam.

"The position of London as a great financial centre and of British Airways at the hub of a network of international routes are legacies which cannot be reinvented but can surely dissipate by wrong-headedness or by negligence."

"If this country wants to continue to have a major international airline, British Airways must be allowed to grow and face on reasonably equal terms the emerging air armadas of the 21st century."

He pleaded for urgent action to improve transport facilities to Heathrow through a new rail line linking the airport both with Paddington and Liverpool Street, for an early construction of a new terminal and for a new helicopter service at Heathrow.

"We need the support of our government in our fight for access to overseas markets as overseas airlines fight for access to ours. We need to operate in clear skies in which traffic is efficiently controlled. We need to operate from bases as adept and user-friendly as those from which our competitors fly."

In a final sideswipe at the airport owners, BAA, he said: "If London is to preserve its position, our airports must be organized to meet the needs of the airlines and their passengers - not as supermarkets or property companies."

Business News, page 23

Abortion conscience register attacked

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL to compel all doctors and nurses who refuse to take part in abortions on grounds of conscience to register their objection in a publicly available list has been bitterly denounced by MPs opposed to easier abortion.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, a leading figure in the unsuccessful backbench attempt in April to lower the upper time limit for abortion to at most 22 weeks, said it was "grossly offensive".

She said that the proposal, set out in an amendment to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, would be strongly resisted when it returns to the Commons for its final stages later this month.

Anti-abortion MPs have also tabled amendments, which are aimed at giving MPs a second chance of deciding whether they want "abortion up to birth". Their move follows the complicated series of late night votes at second reading, which backfired on the anti-abortion lobby by liberalizing the existing law.

The Commons decoupled abortion law from the effective 28-week limit imposed by the Infant Life Preservation Act and abolished all limits in cases of handicapped fetuses and where the mother's health was at grave risk. Miss Widdecombe argued that the register, which would be open to scrutiny by health authorities as well as the public in libraries, would jeopardize the career prospects of doctors opposed to abortion.

But its supporters insisted that it was needed to help women seeking an abortion to avoid unsympathetic doctors and so reduce delays.

Miss Jo Richardson, Labour's frontbench spokeswoman on women, who is sponsoring the amendment, said that far too many late abortions were caused by NHS delays.

Concern that women are being unduly pressurised into donating eggs at infertility clinics was expressed by the chairman of the Interim Licensing Authority for Human In Vitro Fertilisation and Embryology yesterday. Dame Mary Donaldson was announcing new guidelines to protect donors.

The guidelines stress that donors should never be paid cash for their eggs. Donors will also be allowed to withdraw at any stage without incurring any cost.

Explaining the guidelines, Dame Mary said: "We are very concerned about inducements offered to women to offer eggs. Centres are increasingly advertising for egg donors. There is a general concern about inducements."

She also voiced concern at the poor success rate of some clinics. Latest annual figures for test tube births, published in the authority's fifth and penultimate report, show a drop in successful live births from 10.1 per cent of infertility treatments to 9.1 per cent; even though the pregnancy rate went up.



Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, trying on a motorcycle rider's helmet at Potters Bar yesterday at the opening of a safety scheme for pizza delivery riders

Split on strip mill closure

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

A DISPUTE on whether to launch a parliamentary inquiry into British Steel's closure of the Ravenscraig strip mill has split the Commons trade and industry committee.

After a heated private session yesterday, the Tory-dominated committee agreed to ask for written evidence from the trade unions representing the 770 workers who lost their jobs at the Motherwell plant.

The committee already has evidence from British Steel and will consider calling Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, after receiving all the written evidence. However Mr Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife, failed to persuade the committee to mount a full-scale investigation immediately.

Mr Rifkind admitted in the Commons yesterday that he is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans for the strip mill. The Scottish Secretary has strongly condemned the closure.

Parliament, page 7

Firms will quit UK unless tunnel links get funds, CBI says

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS will migrate to northern France unless Britain invests more in new road and rail links to serve the Channel tunnel, Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Without additional transport infrastructure, London would become a "cork in a bottle", effectively starving northern England, the South-west and south Wales of the investment in manufacturing and commerce that they need to compete in the European single market, he said.

Mr Banham said that France was planning substantial investment in high-speed rail links and a doubling of its motorway network during the next decade, while Britain appeared content with more modest investments.

The future of Britain's proposed high-speed rail link, which would go some way to alleviate the concerns of Mr Banham and other business leaders, remains in the balance while the Government decides whether to back the

Clarke defends eye test figures after poll doubts

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government cast doubt last night on the credibility of an opinion poll it commissioned into the number of people having eye tests amid arguments about the effects of charging for eye examinations.

As Labour revealed figures showing a drop of more than three million in eye tests since charges were introduced, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, said a recent poll suggested there had been no real reduction in demand for sight tests.

Mr Clarke produced figures from an NOP poll, commissioned by the Department of Health, which indicated that five million adults and children had sight tests in the first quarter of the year. An assessment of the poll by the department, however, admits that there is a disparity between the NOP's results and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for in the first three months of the year.

The assessment said: "The disparity between the NOP's results for NHS sight testing and the known number of NHS sight tests paid for casts some doubt on the credibility of the results."

It suggests that the disparity might have been caused by "over reporting". Defending the Government's policy, Mr Clarke said even if the NOP survey, suggesting that five million people had eye tests in the first quarter of 1990, was 50 per cent higher than the true figure it would still be in line with projected increases based on the 10 years to 1987.

He said: "The past 15 months seem to have been entirely consistent with what any reasonable person might have expected. There was a rush before the changes were introduced when 4.5 million people - an abnormally high number - had their sight tested in the first three months of 1989. There was then an inevitable dip, after which the number of sight tests recovered to their former normal levels."

Figures produced from surveys conducted by optometrists contradicted Mr Clarke's assertion. While the Department of Health recorded 13.2 million eye

examinations in 1988-1989 data produced by the optometrists showed only 8.9 million were undertaken in the following year.

Mr Robin Cook, Opposition health spokesman, gave a warning that this would mean thousands of cases of serious eye conditions would remain undetected with a potential threat to their sight.

It was not just people's sight that was at risk by the ending of free eye tests but other illnesses were being detected during tests, he added. "I am deeply concerned that people's lives are being put at risk by the Government's apparent determination to privatize health services."

The figures from the optometrists showed, he said, that the average number of sight tests fell by 32.4 per cent between the years 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 when charges were introduced.

The optometrist survey was conducted among less than 10 per cent of the 6,500 practices in England and Wales. About 40 per cent of people can still get free eye tests but private firms charge others about £12.

The NOP survey was undertaken between March 21 and April 23 this year among a sample of 9,518 people and achieved an overall response rate of about 50 per cent.

£5,000 bail for crash driver

THE driver in the holiday coach disaster was last night set to be freed on £5,000 bail after being told from his hospital bed he has been charged with manslaughter of 11 British tourists.

John Johnston, aged 42, of Chell Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was questioned for 90 minutes in hospital by the examining magistrate in charge of the case.

He is accused of manslaughter, involuntary wounding, and speeding, after the coach veered out of control off a motorway and crashed, killing 11 and injuring 60. He was told he would be free to leave France if he paid the surety. News of the charges was broken to him in hospital by Mr James Daly, British Consul-General in Paris.

Passport find

FIVE men and a woman were being questioned yesterday by Sussex police in connection with forged British passports. They were among 11 people arrested in a series of raids on Tuesday in Brighton and Newhaven. Five were later released on police bail.

Reward doubled

The reward for information about the killers of Mr Rajibhai Patel, the sub-postmaster shot dead in Hackney, north-east London, has been doubled to £20,000 by the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters. It warned members not to risk their lives to protect post office money.

Report 'misled'

A headline report in *The Independent* about radioactive soil dumping was misleading because it implied that the waste site was not legally authorized to take it, the Press Council says today, upholding a complaint by a waste firm, the Shanks and McEwan group, of Aylesbury, Bucks.

Polish service

THE BBC is to begin broadcasting in Polish radio via satellite in the first formal arrangement with the eastern bloc. Mr John Tusa, managing director of the BBC World Service, said yesterday. Satellite transmission will begin next month with the launch of the new Eutelsat satellite.

Abbey service

Mrs Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Lord Maclean of Clashfern were among those who attended a memorial service for Lord Bruce-Gearyne, the former Treasury minister and journalist, at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

Memorial service, page 14

Pavement performance in effort to save the Dominion

MICHAEL POWELL



Tom Conti, the actor, campaigning yesterday to save the Dominion Theatre, London, with Natalie Wright, aged 16, who plays the lead role in *Bernardette*

ACTORS and conservationists were joined yesterday in a demonstration outside the Dominion Theatre, in Tottenham Court Road, central London, by the cast of the new musical *Bernardette* as the campaign to save the theatre from demolition and replacement by a hotel was stepped up.

"People come to London for the Queen, the old times and for the theatre," said the actor Tom Conti. "To destroy this for a hotel complex which they won't be able to fill would be committing an act of supreme folly."

The 2,000-seat theatre, at which *Bernardette* is to open in two weeks' time, is to be the subject of a planning inquiry into the proposal to replace the Grade II listed building with a 354-bedroom hotel, shops and offices. Planning consent was refused by Camden council. The inquiry, which was to have opened on

June 12, has been postponed for four months because a partner in the development consortium, Rush & Tomkins, the builder, has gone into receivership. The delay is to allow Savetex, leaseholder of the site, to make new partnership arrangements.

The theatre, built in 1929 to show both drama and films, is one of only six left in the West End that can accommodate audiences of more than 2,000. A campaign to save it was launched last month by the Theatres Trust, the Save London's Theatres Campaign, the Society of West End Theatre, the Theatres Advisory Council, Equity, the Musicians' Union and English Heritage.

"The land on which the theatre stands is worth infinitely more than the theatre itself," said Mr John Earl, director of the Theatres Trust, who said it ran into "mega-millions".

He said: "I know that there are at least two offers on the table from producers to buy the theatre, but it isn't for sale. If it were, producers would be crawling over each other to get it because it's exactly what we need for the musicals that are so popular now. We cannot afford to lose this theatre - if we do, it will be the first West End theatre to be demolished in more than 20 years and the first 2,000-seater for 30 years."

Mr Earl said that the new line could be built for £2.6 billion. It would require, however, a £400 million Government subsidy. In exchange, Network SouthEast would get a 50 per cent stake in the line's capacity for commuter services.

The future of the musicals that are so popular now, Mr Earl said, would go some way to alleviate the concerns of Mr Banham and other business leaders, remains in the balance while the Government decides whether to back the

Technology, page 35

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Leading article, page 13

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National detective squad could fight organized crime

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN could have a computerized national criminal intelligence unit by autumn next year covering offences from football hooliganism to drug trafficking and organized crime, police chiefs were told yesterday.

A nationwide detective group could be in place soon afterwards, and plans were being drawn up to restructure nine regional crime squads so their 1,200 officers can form the basis of the investigation group, the Association of Chief Police Officers' conference in Torquay was told.

Mr John Smith, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in charge of specialist CID, expected the national intelligence unit to start in the summer or autumn of next year. The investigation unit could be ready soon

afterwards and eventually total two thousand officers, including the regional crime squads and specialist London detectives.

There have been divisions within the police over such a force and it appears that using the regional crime squads may be a compromise to overcome the problem, although Mr Smith said conclusions on the investigation unit had yet to be reached.

He said the police had to grasp the problem of organized crime. Britain did not suffer from groups like the Mafia in Italy and the United States and there was no systematic corruption of police, judiciary or lawyers. "Rather, it might more simply be said that there are no Mr Bigs but there are a number of Mr Big-enoughs."

Mr Neil Dickens, national co-ordinator of the regional crime squads, said a report was due soon on the restructuring of the squads and he is due to complete work by the end of this month on what should be included in the intelligence unit.

Police are examining the possibility of combining records held by 11 different police departments. They cover arts and antiques thefts, paedophilia, food contamination, links with Interpol, animal rights activities, serious fraud, mobile criminals, the new national football hooligan unit, and the national drugs intelligence unit. The new unit would be a clearing house not only in Britain but for links to the rest of Europe and the world, using the Interpol communications network.

Mr John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire, said the changes in law and policing methods meant it was no longer possible for police to concentrate and crack down on gangs as they had in the 1960s. Organized crime was approached as if it were street crime when a control strategy was needed, sometimes sabotaging plans rather than prosecuting. He cited a planned fraud using a derelict Welsh coalmine to fleece investors. Police scared off potential stockholders and thwarted the criminals.

But Mr John Wood, director of the Serious Fraud Office, argued against a direct move to national units, certainly for fraud. He suggested that regional fraud squads should be set up with teams of accountants and lawyers. He was speaking during a presentation on fraud in which Det Chief Supt Perry Nove, head of the City of London Fraud Squad, called on companies and police to give fraud prevention a higher profile. Too often companies had no plans to cope with the discovery of fraud which meant that evidence might be destroyed or tampered with before investigators arrived.

He said the organizers of fraud and drugs in the 1990s had taken the place of the armed robbers of the 1960s. Major criminals were operating in attacks on the banking system, subverting staff and getting inside information to evade controls. Electronic money transfers were attractive to fraudsters because of the speed at which they operated. Criminals did not try to break into systems, but reached them by corruption. The amount of money at risk uncovered by investigators had risen from £262 million in 1981 to £4 billion in 1987. The number of fraud cases rose by 23 per cent over that period.

Letters, page 13

High cost of shady solicitors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DISHONEST solicitors who abscond with clients' money will cost the profession nearly £27 million in compensation between now and the end of 1991, the Law Society has estimated.

A report before the society's council today shows that there has been a big rise in claims on the Solicitors' Compensation Fund, and for increasing sums. Last year, the fund received 813 claims for compensation totalling £14.6 million, compared with 577 totalling £6.7 million in 1988.

The high total last year was chiefly because of "six extraordinary defaulters" who gave rise to claims of more than £7 million, the Solicitors' Com-

plaints' Bureau said yesterday. One is believed to be the late Mr Hugh Simmonds, the Buckinghamshire solicitor found dead in his car in November 1988. Claims from his clients total £3.8 million.

The fund is expected to face claims estimated at some £4.5 million this year and £5 million next year. The report from the society's adjudication committee estimates total liabilities up to the end of next year, including outstanding claims, will be £26.8 million gross. The fund already has some £12 million assets in hand.

Miss Mavis Fairhurst, a spokesman for the Solicitors' Complaints' Bureau, said yesterday that it was not a question of "more and more dishonest solicitors. We are talking about a very small proportion who got away with very large sums of money."

The rise in claims will mean an increase in the levy on solicitors, possibly even a special levy as imposed in 1988. The amount of the levy will be debated by the council today. Some 85 per cent of claims arose from conveyancing transactions, which included failure to pay stamp duty and/or Land Registry fees when the defaulting solicitor had been paid for these by the client. Most of the rest arose from probate and litigation matters.



Mr Mary Swan: "Frogs are ecologically important"

plan to revisit them all over the next two years.

Common frogs act as an important barometer for the state of the countryside because they are considered to be Britain's most adaptable amphibian: *Rana temporaria* can spawn successfully in puddles, tractor ruts, lakes and discarded bath tubs. It is mobile, can travel large distances and eats a wide variety of food.

Dr Swan said: "If frogs, which are such an adaptable species, have declined so

MP speaks up for threatened frogs

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell, staunch defender of the down-trodden, has taken up the cause of the once-ubiquitous common frog.

Mr Dalyell, who has about 20 frogs spawning regularly in a pond at his National Trust home near Linlithgow, Lothian, has voiced concern that the species could soon be extinct in much of Britain.

He called for ponds, like trees, to become subject to preservation orders so that frogs, which play a vital part in keeping waters healthy, can be safeguarded for future generations.

"I am a natural frog liker. Frogs are an important part of the ecology. I have had frogs in the pond in my garden since I was a child and I think my grandchildren are entitled to frogs also."

Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told Mr Dalyell in a letter that he shared his concern about the drop in frog numbers.

Scientists all over the world are alarmed by the decline and in some cases disappearance

of frogs, which have been around since the time of the dinosaurs. A panel has been convened in America to study the problem.

Dr Mary Swan, a scientist at Leicester Polytechnic, in a report funded by the Nature Conservancy Council, discovered that there were 20 per cent fewer ponds than 30 years ago in Britain. Less than half the ponds checked contained frogs, an estimated frog loss of two million in three decades. About eight million frogs are now estimated to breed at about 66,500 sites in rural Britain.

That loss does not take into account the growth of the urban frog, which has been made welcome in garden ponds. Dr Swan, who is now researching ways of improving habitats around ponds, said: "Until we know more about garden sites, the actual state of the frog in terms of numbers will be unknown."

Of 50 key frog-breeding sites identified in 1983, several were revisited last year and had "deteriorated rather badly", she said. Researchers



Lacy Metherell, aged four, comes face to face with a swaying, "breathing" replica of a *Maiaasaura*, a dinosaur that roamed what is now Montana 80 million years ago. Ten prehistoric beasts have been given life thanks to the latest computer and compressor technology in an

exhibition at the Natural History Museum. The stars of "Return of the Living Dinosaurs" move their heads and necks and roll their eyes as their "lungs" pump air, accompanied by a soundtrack of prehistoric grunts and shrieks. All they do not do is walk about. The models, which

also include a four-and-a-half metre tall *Tyrannosaurus rex* and a *Apatosaurus* are the work of the Japanese Kokoro Company Ltd. The dinosaurs' skeletons have been made from aluminium and in some of the big exhibits up to 30 computer-controlled pneumatic air

cylinders have been used to simulate muscle movements. In a display of a nesting *Maiaasaura*, eggs rock in anticipation of hatching and others have tiny twitching heads peering through newly broken shells. The exhibition is open from today to November 8.

Search for lord of manor with £250,000

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S most desirable lordship of the manor, of Stratford-upon-Avon, will be sold on July 19 to anyone with a penchant for grandeur and at least £250,000 to spare.

The buyer must be able to swallow the fact that the present owner — an anonymous Englishman from the area — bought it only two years ago for £87,000, albeit a record at the time.

According to the mysterious Scotsman who undertook the bidding for the present owner, his client was motivated by its historical associations. The speed, however, with which it has reappeared on the market, suggests the prospect of profit may have also been a factor.

The record for a manorial title, established in February this year for the Scottish Baron of Ruchlaw, is £90,000. Mr Roy Davids, a Sotheby's expert, said: "It is probably the most famous lordship in existence. If car number plates can make £250,000, the Lordship for Stratford, with its remarkable history and associations should be able to make more."

Dating from eighth century, the lordship has been held by a succession of Bishops of Worcester, by John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland (the Lord Protector who was executed in 1553); by Queen Elizabeth I's favourite Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (it was her personal gift to him) and from the seventeenth century onwards, by the Sackville family, Earls of Dorset. The Stratford title entered the market in April 1988, when Lord Sackville, a relation of the Bloomsbury Vita Sackville-West, sold it at auction.

Mr Davids said: "The lordship of the manor may be used on visiting cards and legal documents. These things sell on the fact that people like to be called lord of the manor."

According to Mr Davids, a buyer may also unearth long-forgotten rights, such as that to hold fairs and markets, not to mention fishing and quarrying in the district.

Evidence contradicted by report

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE last-minute discovery of a document prepared by a government scientist could have wrecked the validity of prosecution forensic evidence and led to the acquittal of the Maguire Seven in 1976, it emerged yesterday at the judicial inquiry into the case and the associated wrongful conviction of the Guildford Four, who were freed last year.

The inquiry, under the former Court of Appeal judge Sir John May, was told that the document impugned a vital scientific test that had identified nitroglycerine in swabs taken from the Maguire defendants and on which the Seven were convicted of running an IRA bomb factory.

Mrs Annie Maguire, now aged 54, her husband, Patrick, 57, their sons, Patrick, 29, and Vincent, 31, and three others were sentenced to between five and 14 years' custody in 1976.

Two junior defence barristers in the trial said yesterday that the document had

been obtained from Mr Howard Yallop, an explosives expert, immediately before the trial judge began his summing up at the Central Criminal Court.

Moves were made by counsel to recall Mr Yallop, who had previously given evidence for the defence, but it had been decided to settle instead for a statement, agreed with the prosecution, to be read to the jury.

It had also been agreed that the judge Sir John Donaldson should make clear to the jury in his summing up that the significance of the document was that it showed the scientific test was not specific for nitroglycerine, as the prosecution had asserted throughout the trial. Amid confusion, Sir John had told all the lawyers, in the absence of the jury, that he had almost reached the point at which he might have to dismiss the case.

The reference he eventually made to the document, however, in his summing up

allegedly failed to make the point that defence counsel had expected about the significance of the document.

The document's arrival at the court on March 1, 1976, and its impact on the case were described by two barristers, Mr Antonio Bueno, now a QC, and Mr Patrick Mullen.

The document's author was Mr Walter Elliott, a scientist at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) which did the forensic tests in the Maguire case. He had sent it to Mr Yallop, his former colleague, then writing a book.

It showed that the specialized "thin-layer chromatography" (TLC) test to identify nitroglycerine was not specific to that explosive, as claimed by RARDE witnesses in the trial, but also disclosed another substance, PETN. The defence had sought to prove during the trial that the TLC test could identify many household substances.

Mr Mullen told the inquiry:

"The principal issue on which the case was fought was whether there was, or could be, another substance which could be confused with nitroglycerine when tested."

Mr Yallop had made contact to say that he had found the document and that there was PETN explosive, which RARDE knew behaved like nitroglycerine under test conditions, Mr Mullen said.

"It was appreciated that the significance of the document was that it contained information which impugned the integrity of the test," he said.

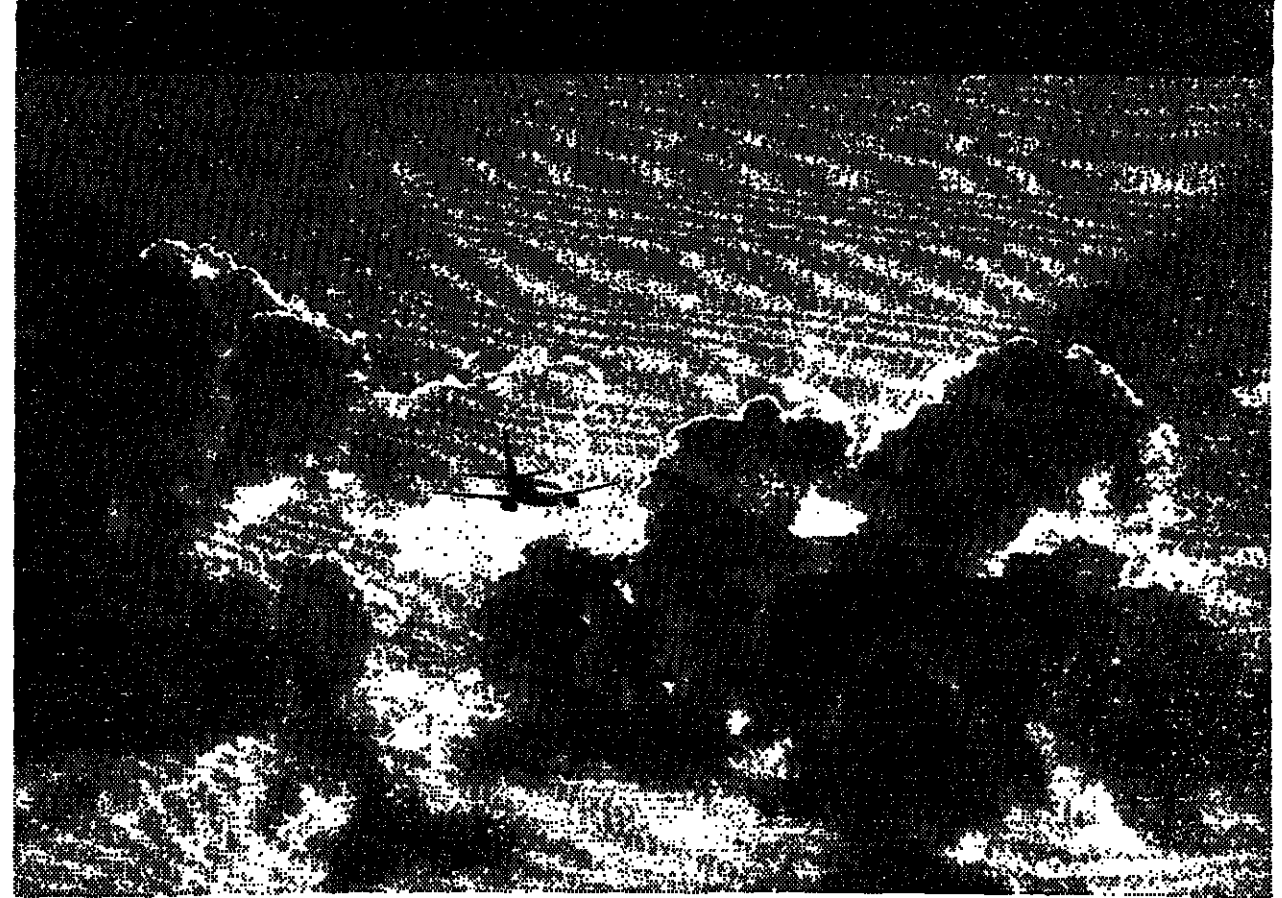
Although Mr Yallop had made it clear he had simply forgotten about it, it was felt an agreed statement would be better for the defence than his recall as a witness.

Mr Bueno said: "We were thrown into a state of disarray. I was terribly disappointed Mr Yallop was not recalled."

He said: "We were placed in the most appalling dilemma. The inquiry continues today."

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		Finance Charges	£1060.80	£1088.12	£1722.28
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		Minimum Deposit 20%	£1762	£1782	£1817
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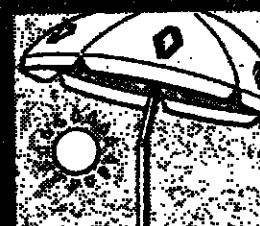
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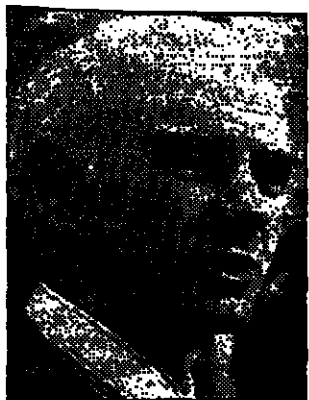
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Better police communications 'could improve 999 service'



Mr Davies: "Control room is the key to efficiency"

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces could provide an improved emergency service that also gives better value for money, according to a survey of police communications by the Audit Commission published today.

The report says that the 999 police emergency system operates with few checks on the time taken to answer calls, the suitability of the response and whether the police or public are satisfied. Without such monitoring, it is difficult to know how good the service is. Unlike the fire or ambulance services, no national

standards are set for emergency responses.

After several decades of introducing computer systems, the commission suggests that, although there is no evidence to show the 999 system is bad, many forces should consider reorganizing their systems to take advantage of the latest technology and make them more efficient.

The present communication and emergency systems cost £160 million a year to operate but £25 million a year could be saved by using more non-police staff, different shift patterns, modern telephone networks and information systems and reorganizing control

rooms. Chief constables are said to have welcomed suggestions in the report and some forces are already carrying out surveys of resources, one of the points covered.

The report says that police research shows that the public rates the response to urgent calls as one of its priorities. It costs £300,000 a year to keep a mobile two-man crew on the road 24 hours a day, equal to 10 community beat officers working an eight-hour day.

Mr Howard Davies, Controller of the Audit, said: "The effective use of police officers on patrol. Our study found that many forces could provide a much improved service that also gives better value for money."

Only the Northamptonshire force, which has a reputation for advanced management and carrying out value-for-money exercises, was found to be checking the time taken to answer calls.

Forces have adopted different types of communication systems ranging from a central control to a two-tier system including smaller local control rooms. Costs vary from £1,260 per officer to £2,160 per officer.

Research on one force showed that 27 per cent of calls to a sub-division communications room were not answered within 30 seconds and in more than 80 per cent of those cases the caller rang

off before being answered. Some forces have logging systems showing where officers are working but these are not always kept up-to-date and in one force a random test showed information on 12 officers was out of date.

Monitoring the time taken for officers to reach urgent situations has been abandoned because they often fail to report their arrival, unlike ambulance or fire crews. Within control rooms, monitoring is needed to check how resources are used, the report says. Control room staff could have their hours tailored to the periods of greatest need and surveys could be carried out to assess public satisfaction.

DES JENSON

Teachers will have more freedom in geography lessons

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are to be given more freedom in teaching the National Curriculum after final recommendations yesterday from the geography working party. It is the first report to be published since Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last Easter that she thought the curriculum was too restrictive and prevented teachers using their individual skills.

The working party's interim report published last November was criticized by teachers for much the same reasons. They said that it covered too much ground and was too prescriptive. The final version allows teachers more time to organize their own work within a compulsory framework.

Sir Leslie Fielding, vice-chancellor of Sussex University and chairman of the working party, said he did not believe the group had been influenced by the Prime Minister. He said: "We were going to address the problem anyway. Inside the group we felt that we should produce a slimmed-down report to avoid overload. It is more teacher friendly and something that they can use."

"We thought that teachers should be given more freedom. They will have more flexibility to use their own

materials and methods but they will not be free to do what they like. We have spelt out the programmes of study and hope teachers will turn to that."

Sir Leslie said that although the report had been trimmed it contained the essential ingredients of the interim report published last November. A significant change was the move away from dividing the world into two, North and South, the developed and underdeveloped world.

He said: "That did meet some criticism and we felt that it would be difficult to sustain. There were also one or two natters who wrote to say we were turning the world into white geography and black geography." Pupils will now have to study their home area and region, the United Kingdom within the European Community and the wider world.

Other areas of study will be geographical skills, including the use of maps and diagrams and fieldwork; physical geography to develop a knowledge of weather and climate, rivers and seas, landforms, animals, plants and soils; human geography, giving an understanding of population, settlements, communications and movements and economic activities; and environmental geography to give an understanding of the use and misuse of natural resources, the quality and vulnerability of protecting environments.

The working party is critical of the teaching of geography in England and Wales. "The neglect of geography in primary schools is in our view the most serious weakness." The group adds that many pupils aged 16 leave school with very little knowledge of geography with the result that their knowledge of locations, places and environments is "very uneven". Under the proposals children aged six to 16 will be expected to have the equivalent of at least three lessons in a 40-period week, while GCSE pupils will have an extra period.

Last night, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "These proposals aim to establish a firm foundation for school geography. A sound knowledge of geography is essential for pupils to develop an informed appreciation and understanding of the world in which they are growing up and in which they will live and work as adults."

The report has gone to the National Curriculum Council for consultation to be completed by September so that final recommendations for lessons can be sent to Mr MacGregor by November. National Curriculum lessons in mathematics, English and science were introduced last year. Technology will enter the schools this autumn to be followed by geography and history in 1991. Art, music and physical education, and a compulsory modern languages for those aged 11 to 16, are scheduled for autumn 1992.

Leading article, page 13

School wins battle to opt-out

THE long battle for Beech Cliff School, Bath, to opt-out of state control is officially over. Opposition from the county council crumbled with a landslide vote yesterday against further action.

Leaders of the council's education committee unanimously agreed not to appeal against the ruling by Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to allow the 800-pupil school to opt-out. The school's fight for independence, allowed under the 1988 Education Reform Act, has been seen as a test case. Mr James Ewing, governor of the school, said the decision "means stability and a sure future".



Poster modernism: Political posters in "Collecting for the Future: a Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions", an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, central London, which attempts to explain how a museum acquires items of design and craft. It runs until August 12.

Formula to pick councils for tax capping 'unfair'

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE formula used by the Government in its decision to cap 21 local authorities for setting high poll taxes threw up "hopeless distortions" and unfairly branded some councils as profligate, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, representing four of the capped authorities, claimed that the approach adopted by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, was bound to produce anomalies.

Disparities in the figures used to judge whether community charge levels were excessive were highlighted by Mr Henderson, who said the Government had acted unlawfully by capping the councils.

The 19 councils involved in the action are: Avon, Barnsley, Basildon, Brent, Bristol, Calderdale, Camden, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, North Tyneside, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens and Southwark. None are Conservative controlled.

In the case of Rotherham, Mr Henderson said its "modest" budget figures for education spending showed it was hardly a profligate authority. Rotherham had been assessed by the European Community as "a very poor area" which should spend more on education, he said.

per cent" when it came to assessing the outstanding level of debt for Haringey.

The first "principle" on which Mr Patten had judged an authority's budget excessive - exceeding the Government's Standard Spending Assessment by at least 675 per cent - was not a principle but an arbitrary figure. It was unfair because it favoured authorities which were set low government target spending figures, Mr Henderson said.

He told Lord Justice Leggatt, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Roch that capping was a "drastic step" which had serious financial consequences for local authorities and created uncertainty for charge payers.

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The hearing continues today.

New car sales slump as high interest rates bite

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR sales slumped in May as the Government's attack on borrowing severely dampened High Street spending and forced cost-cutting in industry. Figures released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that heavy discounting and special offers at thousands of showrooms have failed to attract customers into investing in new cars at a time of high interest rates.

The May figures, down 12.7 per cent compared with the same month last year, underline the drop in sales of new cars after a record year for manufacturers in 1989.

Dealers now fear an even fiercer discount war as manufacturers try to rebuild their market share. The SMMT figures show that Ford, Vauxhall, Rover, Peugeot, Talbot, Nissan and Jaguar have lost substantially during this year.

Ford, although still leading with about a quarter of the new car market, has slipped in the first five months of the year to 231,172 from 276,823 in the same period of 1989. Rover sales fell from 139,353 to 130,253, Nissan from 63,974 to 50,323 and Peugeot from 61,855 to 55,217.

Vauxhall sales, mainly through its Cavalier model which now heads the list for the first part of the year, has maintained sales although they, too, are falling - down from 154,197 to 151,987 for a 15 per cent market share.

Japanese importers have had large sales increases in the

first five months. Their share of imported cars has risen to 57.04 per cent compared with 55.84 per cent in 1989. Mazda sales are up from 7,776 to 9,543, Mitsubishi from 4,316 to 5,347, and Honda, 9,277 to 13,063.

The rapid fall of sales during May, traditionally regarded as a busy month, could be followed by two severe months. June and July are the quietest period with buyers saving for the new "H" registration plate on August 1. The SMMT is now revising its estimates downwards for the full year sales total while manufacturers face a summer sales war as they attempt to keep production output moving through the dealers.

Private buyers are staying away from showrooms, put off by high prices and interest

rates, which remain high throughout the term of the loan. Showrooms have been slashing sticker prices by up to £1,500 but those cuts are severely denting second-hand prices when buyers sell their own cars.

The decline in the company sector is also worrying manufacturers. It accounts for half of all new car sales, especially for luxury models from key manufacturers such as Jaguar, Mercedes and BMW.

Top 10 cars from January to May this year are: 1, Vauxhall Cavalier (66,479); 2, Ford Sierra (66,317); 3, Ford Fiesta (64,799); 4, Ford Escort (62,468); 5, Vauxhall Astra (48,381); 6, Rover Metro (39,823); 7, Rover 200 (32,715); 8, Vauxhall Nova (24,783); 9, VW Golf (22,751); 10, Peugeot 205 (22,646).

Japanese models dominate league for reliability

By OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE cars dominate a list of the most reliable cars on British roads published today by the Consumers' Association *Which?* magazine.

Rover wins a high placing in the reliability table with its 213 model, manufactured at Longbridge, Birmingham, designed in collaboration with Honda of Japan and powered by a Honda engine. Ford and Vauxhall, which sell the most cars in Britain, are both regarded as average in the league table of 21 car makers.

The list of manufacturers whose models show better-than-average reliability records is headed by Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Toyota for cars made in the past two years. For cars made between 1985 and 1987, the same five line up. They are joined by Subaru and two European manufacturers, Mercedes and Saab.

The magazine, which took reports from 46,000 cars, said that cars from almost every manufacturer were becoming more reliable. "We are still a long way from the point at which cars are so reliable that we can stop worrying and there are still very great differences between good and poor cars."

Rover, criticized in previous surveys, won some praise from *Which?* for its recovery which brought the 213 "baby" Rover saloons into the reliability listings for the first time. *Which?* says: "Collaboration with Honda is producing an upturn in Rover's fortunes. Honda-engine models are fair to good for reliability."

Last night, Rover said it was wary of the magazine's sample sizes, saying that they could

not reflect the large numbers of cars sold by British manufacturers in the home market to millions of satisfied customers. "We sell more than 300,000 cars a year in this country and the total *Which?* sample for the whole of Rover's products over eight years was just 1,400 cars," a spokesman said.

"We are very pleased that *Which?* is reporting some success of Rover cars. Our customers tell the whole story, especially increasing numbers of fleet customers who would not buy our cars without the confidence that they were reliable."

The new Ford Fiesta is rated as average as is the Escort. Vauxhall gets a better than average for its Astra/Belmont 1600 series.

Japanese cars also share most of the honours in the magazine's annual guide to "Best Buys" for 1990. The Toyota Corolla and the Nissan Sunny are both considered best buys in the category for small family models and the Toyota Carina wins the larger family cars section.

There is some good news again for Rover, with the new Land Rover Discovery, tipped as the best buy among four-wheel-drive vehicles. The French-built Peugeot 205 was judged best buy among supermini models.

The most reliable cars made during 1988-89, judged by *Which?* were: minis and superminis, Peugeot 205 diesel; small family cars, Toyota Corolla; Vauxhall Astra/Belmont; VW Golf/Jetta; larger family cars, Citroen BX diesel, Honda Accord, Mazda 626, Nissan Bluebird, Toyota Carina; large cars, Volvo 700.

Rules on art export 'outdated'

By JOHN SHAW

AN URGENT overhaul of regulations governing the export of works of art was called for yesterday by Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund.

The inadequacy of present legislation in the face of rising art prices had been demonstrated by the case of "The Three Graces". The approaching free market in 1992 made reform imperative.

Sir Nicholas, a former chairman of the Stock Exchange, told the fund's annual meeting in London that new legislation was needed to safeguard export-stopped works of art bought by private buyers.

The 1939 emergency legislation was out-dated and responsibility for export decisions needed to be moved from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Office of Arts and Libraries.

The fund spent over £2 million last year helping institutions throughout the country to buy works of art

Cash problems threatening a Regency revival

By JOHN YOUNG

A SIX-YEAR project to restore a Regency house in Brunswick Square, Hove, to its original early 19th-century appearance and to open it to the public is jeopardized by a lack of funds. Unless the owners can raise about £100,000 to complete the restoration, it may have to be sold and divided once again into flats.

Brunswick Square is widely regarded as a supreme example of Regency townscapes, but after the aristocracy stopped frequenting it, many of the houses fell into disrepair. When Mr Nick Tyson and Miss Margrit Bass moved into the basement of No 13, the property was in danger of collapse and part of it had been condemned as unfit for habitation. However, in the past six years they have acquired the freehold of the property, and, as tenants have left, have restored rooms to their original appearance.

The work has involved painstaking rebuilding and restoration of cornicing, architraves, door and window casings and shutters. The roof has been re-covered with slates

from the Welsh quarry that provided the originals, and the lead work has been restored by Mr Paul Vincent, who was also responsible for the restoration of the domes of the Brighton Pavilion.

Mr Tyson hopes to complete the restoration and open the house to the public in time for next year's Brighton Festival. He believes that it would complement the pavilion by showing how court followers of George IV lived when they went down to Brighton for the summer season.

He has had considerable help from companies including Pilkington Glass, British Steel, Potterton, and Honeywell. A number of craftsmen have given their services free, and Laura Ashley has offered to provide the curtains and wallpaper. Mr John Moxley, former director of the pavilion and keeper of furniture at the Victoria and Albert Museum, has said that he can provide pictures and furnishings in time for the festival.

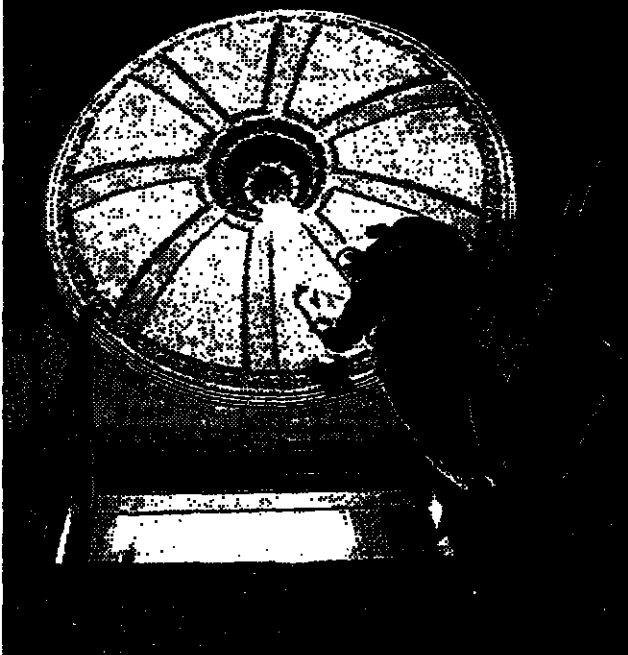
Mr Tyson has spent some £257,000 on the project but, although he has received some improvement grants from

Hove Borough Council, national bodies have declined to help.

Since, like all the houses in the square, the property is listed Grade One, Mr Tyson could normally have expected a grant of at least 40 per cent from English Heritage. However, because he did not own the house when the restoration began, he was not eligible for a grant in advance, and he has now been told that it is not English Heritage's policy to pay grants retrospectively.

Mr Michael Ray, Hove council's chief planning officer, said: "For years we have felt that one fine Regency terrace house should be open to the public. Like the Georgian House in Bath. These two young people have done it for a fraction of what it would have cost the council."

Mr Tyson estimates that he needs about £100,000 to ensure his dream is finally realized. "The thought of having to walk away from all we have done and give it up is very frightening," he said yesterday. "It is torture to be so close and not to be able to finish the task."



Work on restoring the dome above the stairway of 13 Brunswick Square, Hove, for public viewing

Cook in row over 'three million drop' in eye tests

SINCE charges for eye tests by opticians were introduced just over a year ago, the number of tests has fallen by three million, Labour said in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, opening a debate on eye test charges, said that the fall in the number of tests had led to a fall in the number of referrals to specialists, thus putting people's health at risk.

One of the priorities of the next Labour Government would be to introduce free eye tests, he said.

During heated exchanges, Mr

Bill would aid tunnel 'victims'

HOUSEHOLDERS who had to suffer all the problems of noise pollution, disturbance and lower property values as a result of big road or rail projects such as the proposed Channel tunnel high-speed link should not also have to wait a year after the project was completed before they could claim compensation, Miss Anna Widdowson (Maidstone, C) said in the Commons.

Seeking leave under the 10-minute rule to introduce the Injurious Affection (Amendment) Bill, she said that people living in Kent just outside the 240-metre corridor of the tunnel link would not have their properties acquired by compulsory purchase.

They did, however, suffer uncertainty while the scheme was being planned, nuisance during building work and the "monstrous" imposition of having to wait another 12 months before they could claim compensation.

As things were going, it looked likely that the full Channel tunnel link would not be completed before the turn of the century.

The planning and compensation laws needed to be reviewed to see if they were adequate to meet the new phenomenon of the vast new railway construction. Constituents affected by consequent development of freight facilities could not claim any compensation unless there was negligence in the course of construction. If there were simple intensification of use, the Land Compensation Act provided no redress.

The Bill, which proposes that the 12 months' wait should be reduced to three months, was formally read a first time, but has little hope of making further progress.

HEALTH

Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, suggested that the figures had been supplied by the opticians, who had a vested interest.

Mr Cook said that when Mr Clarke had announced the ending of free eye tests 18 months ago he had said that those people claimed it would deter people from getting eye tests and he had denied there would be any deterrent effect. Mr Clarke had asked how many people would be deterred by a £10 charge.

"We can now answer that question: it is three million."

That figure had come from a number of independent surveys analysed by Professor Peter Hain, professor of statistics at Reading University. In the year ended in April, the number of eye tests was 8.9 million. "We have to go back to 1981 to find a year in which the number of eye tests was that low. Effectively, this Government has wiped out a whole decade of advance in services."

Mr Clarke intervened to point out that Mr Cook was relying on data provided by opticians, who had a vested interest in the replies they gave. A Mori poll of the public showed no apparent difference in the number of tests carried out.

Mr Cook said that the Secretary of State seemed to be implying that there was a conspiracy on the part of all those who had taken part in the surveys and by the professor who had analysed them.

It was typical of the Government faced with the problem that it should have gone to a market research organization rather than to the opticians. But it was an established fact that such polls resulted in over-reporting. If the poll was to be believed, 15.25 million people had had eye tests.

"If that was correct, the only problem the profession would have had in the past year would have been how to get these people to form orderly queues at their doors."

Mr Clarke said that Mr Cook's proposition was based "on the absurd argument that so long as you only survey the opticians you can show there is a drop. But every time you survey the public, you show there has been no drop in eye tests at all."

Mr Cook accused Mr Clarke of casting a slur on a scientific profession by saying opticians were conspiring to conceal an increase and to deceive the House.

Mr Clarke asked if the only source of opinion to be relied on was that of a professional vested interest.

Mr Cook said that was a "breathtaking slur". Would he accept an independent audit of the books of opticians? "He will

not ask the optometrists how many they are treating because he dare not ask them."

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said that if ophthalmic opticians and medical practitioners were falsifying their books, it was a matter for the Inland Revenue.

Mr Cook agreed. He challenged Mr Clarke to repeat his allegations outside the cloak of parliamentary privilege.

Mr Clarke described Mr Cook's case as "a palpable myth" based on an inadequate and narrow survey.

Mr Cook said that the reduction of three million tests would mean a 160,000 fall in the number of referrals for medical examination. "These are the people with disturbing symptoms who are now being missed, members of the public who are unaware that their sight and maybe their health is at risk."

These would include 25,000 cases of cataract, 25,000 of glaucoma, 11,000 of hypertension and 13,000 of diabetes.

Mr Clarke had been dramatically wrong in his predictions. The introduction of the market had increased prices and reduced productivity and choice because 250 branches of independent optometrists had closed.

Competition had resulted in higher prices, a reduction in the number of places to be treated.

Mr Clarke said that the Government continued to pay for the eye test for a third of the population, including those on low incomes, young children and people susceptible to particular diseases.

Opticians preferred the system they had before. They could put up notices: "NHS Eye Test: Free for All". This was perfectly proper to get people to come and buy spectacles. The NHS provided them with a guaranteed income. The change meant that each optician had to decide whether to charge and to what extent. Some firms had decided not to do so.

He acknowledged the importance of eye tests in preventive medicine and that it did lead to the discovery of some diseases. But what people were being asked to pay was only £10 or £11 once every two years. It was an important part of their health care. Genuine competition would be more widespread if the Labour Party stopped supporting the free eye test campaign.

Opticians were reluctant to allow a free market to break out when they thought they might get back to where they were before.

Labour, short on health policy, was giving way to commercial lobbying.

The cost of restoring the free eye tests would be £90 million, more than the budget of a reasonable-size health authority.



Health board 'is incompetent'

LOTIAN Health Board's financial problems were the result of the incompetence of the board members, Labour's Scottish health spokesman said during questions.

Mr Samuel Galbraith described the situation as a shambles and said that ultimate responsibility rested with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland. All the board members were appointed directly by Mr Rifkind and half of them were either directly or indirectly connected with the Conservative Party.

"Unless an increase in funding is made available to the board, the crisis will only be resolved by the Secretary of State rescuing on his promises, closing hospitals and introducing other measures that will directly affect patient care."

Mr Rifkind said that the Government had been helpful with regard to the problems of the Lothian board by indicating that the board would not be required this year to pay for the over-spent last year. But it was crucially important that the board should gain control over its expenditure and resources.

All health boards in Scotland were funded in the same way, and if the Lothian Region were to be rescued, it would be the only one with financial mismanagement within the board itself.

Answering a question about the criteria for appointments to health boards in Scotland, Mr

Rifkind said that individuals were appointed on the basis of the contribution they could make to the duties and responsibilities of the board.

Mr Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh South, Lab) asked whether Mr Rifkind realized that the cuts and panic closures of hospitals in the Lothian Region were an indictment of his system of appointments.

"Will he now ensure that the Lothian Health Board gets proper funding," he asked, "or will he go?"

Mr Rifkind said that he was anxious to ensure that health boards recognized and considered all the implications for health care in their region.

The problem had not been caused by underfunding; all boards in Scotland were funded in the same way. The fact that Lothian had severely over-spent was the result of internal financial mismanagement.

Mr Archie Kirkwood (Ross and Berwickshire, Lib Dem) asked for an assurance that, if appointments were more business oriented, the Secretary of State would pay attention to the successor boards and see that they were properly funded.

Mr Rifkind said that he wished to ensure that there was the widest possible breadth of experience, consistent only with there being no conflict of interest between those who served on the health boards and those with financial associations with the provision of health care.

Rifkind is still trying to get information

RAVENSCRAIG

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, is still trying to get information from British Steel about its plans to close the Ravenscraig hot strip mill at Motherwell, but at question time he rejected a suggestion that he should use the Government's golden share to intervene at the company's annual meeting next month.

He said that he has suggested in a letter to Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, that he should meet the workforce representatives to explain his thinking and hear their "constructive suggestions of how they can make a vital contribution to the welfare of British Steel."

Mr Malcolm Rifkind said: "Our first priority is to obtain greater information - indeed any information about the reasoning and thinking behind their proposals."

Dr Robert Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said that he was glad Mr Rifkind had met representatives of the workers. It was their jobs that were on the line.

"They know better than anyone in this House the problems of the steel industry. Suspicions are growing among the workers' representatives and others that the closure of the hot strip mill is the result of the monopoly position of British Steel."

Mr James Sillars (Glasgow, Govan, SNP) said that one privilege of the Government's golden share in British Steel was that a minister had the right to attend and to address shareholders at the annual meeting. He asked Mr Rifkind to exercise that right and to get, at the meeting, the information so far denied to the Government.

Mr Rifkind: However sincere his intentions, that is a rather foolish suggestion. The golden share is only relevant to any

proposal for an outside interest to acquire more than 15 per cent of the shareholding of British Steel. That was made clear by the prospectus.

Mr Richard Holt (Langhams, C) reminded him that he was talking about British Steel. There would be considerable resentment if Mr Rifkind sought unduly to influence British Steel in making a commercial decision simply because of the volume of votes from Scottish Labour MPs.

Mr Rifkind replied that the Government had called on British Steel to explain and defend its position on proposals for the strip mill.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that it was not encouraging to hear the minister talking of hoping that he would get some information from British Steel.

"Is he getting co-operation on the arguments, facts and figures? Has Sir Robert Scholey indicated that he will discuss his case openly and frankly with the workforce and the Government? What steps will the minister take if co-operation is not forthcoming? If the information comes forward, will he look seriously at the need to test the assumptions behind the decision, perhaps with the help of independent advice?"

Mr Rifkind said that he understood Mr Dewar's need to make those remarks, but was in all practical respects the same as that of the Government.

Labour had ruled out rationalization, thus saying with all others, that the decision was for British Steel.

Flashing lights for school buses

TRANSPORT

SCHOOL buses will have to carry distinctive signs, which may include flashing lights, if government proposals for regulations are carried into effect.

Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State, Transport, gave details in a written reply of the proposals being published in a consultation paper.

He said that the proposed regulations would require all buses, except those running public scheduled services, to display a distinctive sign while carrying children to or from their school.

"They would also permit the fitting of flashing amber lights near such signs, and their use when children were getting on or off the bus."

"The use of these signs will make a significant contribution to improving the safety of children using school buses. They will alert motorists to the

fact that children are about and might be crossing the road."

"Motorists should exercise extra caution every time they overtake a stationary bus displaying the sign, whether or not it is equipped with the additional flashing lights."

He hoped that this, taken with other recently announced measures in a wide programme of steps to promote safety on the roads, would help to bring about the reduction in child road deaths that everyone wished to see.

The draft regulations have been issued to interested parties, whose views have been invited by August 31. The sign proposed for school buses will be the international sign showing a silhouette of two children.

Savings schemes to be updated

New ways of saving are to be introduced soon to encourage long-term savings in the wake of the Budget announcement of a 1 per cent increase in National Savings interest rates.

Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary, Treasury, said in a written reply that there would be a new fixed-interest savings certificate offering a tax-free guaranteed return of 9.5 per cent a year if held for five years; a similar improvement in the yearly plan; a new index-linked savings certificate revalued monthly by reference to the retail prices index and offering tax-free guaranteed extra interest of 4.5 per cent a year if held for five years; and a new series capital bond offering a guaranteed return of 13 per cent a year, taxable, but credited without prior deduction of income tax, if held for five years.

Visa rules changed

Citizens from Argentina and East Germany will no longer need visas to visit Britain, Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Necessary changes in the immigration rules were laid before Parliament yesterday and come into effect tomorrow.

Grant for Nicaragua

Britain is to provide a grant of £500,000 for Nicaragua, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in a Commons written reply. British aid in the past has been channelled through the European Community which provided £13.8 million in 1988, of which Britain's share was £2.75 million.

New peers introduced

Lord Cavendish of Furness, formerly Mr Richard Cavendish, chairman of Holker Estate Group, and Lord Holme of Cheltenham, formerly Mr Richard Holme and a former president of the Liberal Party, were introduced in the Lords yesterday.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister; Food Safety Bill, remainder of stages. Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, report, first day.

Ashdown's housing cash plan

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats would phase out mortgage tax relief and institute housing allowances applying both to those buying and to those renting their homes, Mr Paddy Ashdown said yesterday. The Liberal Democrat leader said that the action would come after a merger of the tax and social security systems.

Mr Ashdown was introducing a report on homelessness, seen but not heard, produced for his party by a group of housing experts; it is to form the basis of discussions on formulating a policy for the homeless.

The report says that mortgage interest relief to home owners last year cost £6,750 million, with higher rate taxpayers receiving on average more than £2,000 towards their housing costs from public funds. It urges, in the long term, the institution of a new system of housing subsidy, called housing cost relief, which would apply both to home owners and to those who rent. Existing mortgage holders would not be affected unless they chose to opt into the new system.

The authors, Bruce Douglas-Mann, chairman of Shelter, Wendy Chaplain, a London borough housing officer, Mark Hayes, an architect, and Chris Price, a



management consultant, say that renting is at present uneconomic for landlords and for anyone who can afford to buy.

In the short term, the report says that homelessness can be countered by paying income support in advance instead of in arrears, by restoring income support for the under-25s, by providing Youth Training

Scheme travel warrants to those prepared to travel to train and by reducing liability for mortgage interest payments in family credit. It calls for an increase in hostel accommodation.

In the medium term, the report urges preservation of the leasing system being abolished under the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, expansion of the lodging system and the provision of a duty on neighbouring local authorities to provide for others with greater housing needs.

It says that portable discounts along the lines of the right to buy should be considered for local authority tenants who want to buy in the private sector, so leaving public housing stock available. It also calls for capital receipts from the sale of council houses to be released for the provision of new housing.

Mr Ashdown said that there were 80,000 people defined as homeless in statutory terms in London alone and the number had increased by 20,000 in a year.

It was no longer a problem confined to inner cities; it was spreading to the country, too. He had helped to provide two much-needed hostels in his own area of Yeovil. He added: "Unless steps are taken now, we face another winter of suffering. It is the shame of our nation to see the cardboard ghettos growing in every city."

Parliament 'must not decline into an EC parish council'

LABOUR would not want to see Parliament become a parish council within the EC, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, said in the Lords during a debate on European political and monetary union.

He told peers that he wanted the EC to be democratic and Britain to be a part of it. "But I do not want this Parliament to be dismantled or converted into a parish council."

The debate, he said, was fundamentally about how much more power the Government proposed to give to the Community. "We shall need to know its authority and in which authority or authorities it will be invested. Our chief concern in this is accountability."

He said that Parliament and the people wanted to know much more about the Government's policy on these crucial issues.

There were differences in the Government and in the Cabinet. But the Opposition was entitled to expect a clear foreign policy, pursued with consistency, rather than to have the Government scramble to debate events set in

HOUSE OF LORDS

that joining would not cure Britain's economic problems overnight, but in the longer term it could provide her with the kind of stability and the terms of investment and steady growth that the country so badly needed.

If the road to economic union was strewn with difficulties, but they were not insuperable. But the way to political union was far harder to negotiate.

Opening the debate, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said that there were some signs of improvement in the Government's European posture and that Labour administrations had also been guilty of misjudgement on the issue. But why had the Government persistently and damagingly marched out of step with Europe?

The explanation for the remarkable consistency in attitude of governments of both parties lay more in misunderstanding than in a lack of British goodwill towards the Community, although the result had been unfortunate.

There was, for instance, an exaggerated and unnecessary fear of a "formal and flattening federalism" which would make Europe an analogue of the

United States, with Britain merely the equivalent of a Pennsylvania or Illinois within it. He did not believe that would happen.

There was the traditional intellectual tradition to think more in general declarations of intent and direction, while the British were more inclined towards "nudging one way forward, determining each step only after the previous one has been taken."

The test of European statesmanship, and the only way to be an effective European leader, was to be able to reconcile. Sometimes there was a logical gap between the end and the means of a ringing European declaration and it was sensible to profit from the vagueness, making oneself central in playing an important role in shaping the modality.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the Government was taking an active role in seeking to define the future development of the Community. The United Kingdom wanted a strong Community but wished to maintain its national traditions and distinctive way of life. It was not talking of cultural and social things such as cricket and pints of beer, or Shakespeare, but also of political traditions and the maintenance of strong political institutions.

'Freedom of speech' inquiry

UNIVERSITIES

INTERESTED parties are to be consulted by the Scottish Office about arrangements for safeguarding freedom of speech in universities and colleges in Scotland and would then consider whether any action was needed, Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said during question time.

Mr Donald Dewar, Opposition chief spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that he regretted that there appeared to have been a shift in the Scottish Office position since a Scottish Office minister had said that there was little evidence in Scotland of the problems that had led to the action taken to deal with interference with free speech on campuses in England. There had been one deplorable incident at Glasgow recently, but that had been very much a case of rent-a-crowd.

Mr Lang said that it was because the position was different that the Scottish Office had not followed English colleagues in their action.

Freedom of speech was vitally important if a university was to be the light of liberty and learning and it could not be that unless freedom of speech was upheld.

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Fairclough Homes

Nato to study Soviet call for links with Warsaw Pact

FROM ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN COPENHAGEN

MR JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, confirmed yesterday that Nato is to consider Soviet proposals for links between the two military alliances.

He will brief the 15 other Nato foreign ministers today on ideas put forward by Mr Edward Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, during talks in Copenhagen. Mr Baker said Mr Shevardnadze had given "more insights" into the ideas, first mooted by President Gorbachov during the Washington summit. Both men refused to disclose details until they had seen their respective allies.

While Mr Baker attends the two-day Nato meeting in Turnberry, Scotland, the Soviet Foreign Minister will be at a Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow.

Mr Baker hinted that Moscow was proposing direct confidence-building measures between the two pacts. A number of indirect measures agreed through the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have been in force for some time.

Links between the alliances might overcome Soviet fears arising from German reunification, helping the Kremlin to drop its objections to a united Germany being part of Nato.

The West will not accept anything which could be interpreted as a merger, but might agree to limited face-saving arrangements to help Moscow come to terms with reunification and with the virtual disintegration of the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian Secretary for External Affairs, said there would be "extensive discussion" at Turnberry on giving Nato a more political character. He called for decisions on these lines to be taken at the Nato summit in London next month and said Mr Gorbachov and Mr Shevardnadze had made it clear they would not be satisfied with mere talk of change.

Mr Baker stretched out his hand to Moscow yesterday in a remarkably hopeful speech to the Conference on the Human Dimension, an international human rights forum. American and British delegates at previous human rights conferences have strongly criticized the Soviet Union's record, but Mr Baker is thought to welcome Mr Gorbachov's reforms. Apart from

repeating President Bush's misgivings over Soviet policy on Lithuania, Mr Baker's emphasis was on the prospects for a better future. "We are closer than ever to realizing the CSCE's long-cherished vision of a Europe whole and free," he declared.

Mr Baker and Mr Clark made proposals similar to ideas put forward by Moscow, which would transform the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe into the leading political forum on Europe's future. A final decision to upgrade the organization will almost certainly be taken at a CSCE summit later this year. There have been fears for several weeks that the meeting might be delayed because of Soviet foot-dragging in Vienna at the Conventional Forces in Europe talks, but since the Washington summit, some of the optimism has returned.

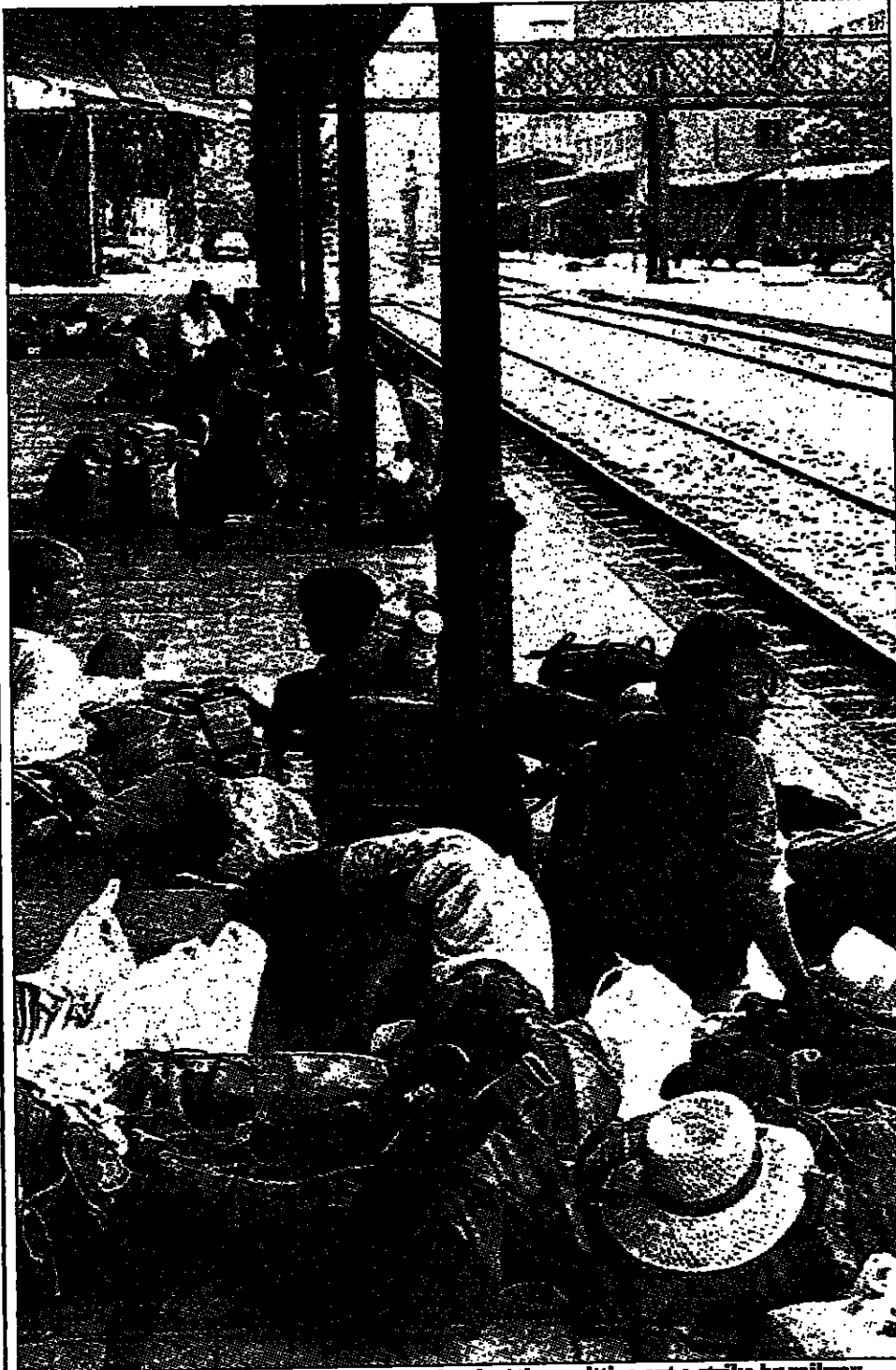
Albania, which has been admitted to the Copenhagen Conference as an observer, said yesterday that it hoped to join the CSCE by the end of the year. The organization would then include every country in Europe.

But the Albanians appear not to have realized what this will entail. Mr Petrit Bushati, the Albanian Ambassador to Sweden, said Tirana would adopt all CSCE agreements made since it was founded in 1975. But when asked if Albania would have multi-party democracy, he said there was no tradition for organized opposition.

● Rights issue: Although the human rights situation in the Soviet Union has dramatically improved, several problems still exist and Moscow still has to implement many of the stipulations of the Helsinki Accord of 1975, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights told a press conference yesterday, on the second day of the Conference on the Human Dimension in the Danish capital (Christopher Follett writes).

"There is a major need for education on human rights in the Soviet Union, *perestroika* is still very unevenly distributed," Mr Yuri Orlov, the Soviet dissident and co-founder of the Moscow Helsinki Group in 1976, said.

Jargon of peace, page 12



Stopped in their tracks: Canadian tourists in Athens sitting out a strike by railway workers as a 24-hour general stoppage over government economic policy took hold

Bulgarians unmoved by the 'steered revolution'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BANSKA, BULGARIA

IF THE road is cleared of cars in an hour in advance, if there are policemen positioned every 200 yards, and your vehicle is a Mercedes, it is possible to get from President Palace to Bankia in 20 minutes. That was how Mr Todor Zhivkov, the former Bulgarian leader, travelled to his villa in a small hillside village famed for its mineral water and high ozone levels.

Outside there are Moorish frills, inside a cinema, seven suites and an Olympic-sized swimming pool surrounded by exotic plants. There are no peacocks in the garden any

more and no uniformed policemen, but swarthy, cautious men who do not talk very much. They prowl the lawns, checking alarms.

The disgraced Mr Zhivkov is in prison hospital awaiting trial on charges of corruption. His grandson is under house arrest in another Zhivkov villa, charged with rape. His son, Vladimir, is under investigation. Everything is in political limbo.

Mr Zhivkov, aged 79, and all his belongings, are an embarrassment. It is difficult to shed the impression that a party in control of the state

machinery for 45 years does not tend naturally to self-enrichment. Mr Aleksandr Lilov, the party chairman and once Mr Zhivkov's chief ideologist, has a large Western-equipped villa.

The opposition has been trying to stir up the issue, but Mr Lilov merely says: "Why not? The ideal of socialism is not poverty. My villa has been built with money paid to me for 40 years of work - honest work - and from the fees for my publication." That, of course, misses the point as the party elite, including President Mladenov, bought their houses legally but at artificially depressed prices.

The core issue is that the present leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, which stands a good chance of winning Sunday's elections, is almost identical to the hierarchy of Mr Zhivkov's Communist Party. Mr Mladenov, Mr Zhivkov's Foreign Minister for many years, now says that his former boss "was a ruthless maniac blinded with greed for power". Yet, say opposition analysts, Mr Mladenov must have been closely involved with Mr Zhivkov's virulently anti-Turkish policy and many other blunders.

In certain circles - in the university, the film and theatre communities - it is chic to vote for the opposition and sport the blue stickers and scarves of their Union of Democratic Forces. But, at heart, there is a deep indifference to the "steered revolution", with the attempt of a weakened but still dominant Communist Party to share power and gain a new legitimacy. Some form of coalition with the Communists seems inevitable after Sunday.

Freedom may revive glories of Carlsbad

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN MARIANSKE LAZNE

FOR Bohemian spas, particularly one as venerable as Marianske Lazne (known as Carlsbad in the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), this week's first free elections for 42 years hold out the promise of a new era of prosperity after decades of communist abuse and neglect.

"Whoever wins, as long as it is not the Communists, things will be better for us," the tall, coated manager of the opulent Hotel Moskva says.

The hotel, formerly the Hotel Pupp, was the setting for the handover of the Habsburgs' order of battle by the infamous Austrian traitor, Colonel Redl, to his Russian counterpart.

The Moskva, whose high-ceilinged rooms were the exclusive playground of party bosses until last December, is enjoying a new lease of life. The German frontier is barely 30 minutes' drive away.

Mr Pavel Smutny, "regulator" of the spa's chief thermal spring, the 30ft-high *sprudel*, believes the elections offer Carlsbad the chance to recover its pre-1914 status as Europe's premier spa. "Today people need spas more than ever - to banish the stress of modern life. Carlsbad will again become a point on the map," he says.

Mr Smutny, along with most of his colleagues, will be voting for the Greens. "A Green vote is a vote for nature and therefore a vote for the spas," he said as a van broadcasting Green election notices sped by.

Above the wrought-iron pergolas of the former Imperial Austrian offices' convalescent home, the forest walks that meander past derelict chapels are a melancholy comment on four decades of communist misrule.

One in every three trees is visibly dying - the heart of Czechoslovakia's heavy industry is just miles away. Lignite, burnt in quantities never experienced here before the war, is the main culprit. The combination of dying forests and boarded-up pension houses, still empty from the expulsion of the millions of Czechoslovak Germans who lived here until 1946, is intensely depressing.

At nearby Marienbad, reached through an area of 20 square miles of devastated pine forests, the effects of the pollution are even more apparent.

Mr Miroslav Kulhavy, vice-president of the Bohemian Greens, believes that those who do not vote for his party are only helping the Communists to achieve their virtual single-handed destruction of one of the most fabulously unspoiled parts of the Earth.

"Time is not on our side. Drastic action is needed now, by everyone. If we do not win enough votes, I'm afraid there is a danger that commerce will take precedent over the environment," he says.

Not boasting a casino, Marienbad is more genteel than its larger neighbour, but here, too, years of neglect weigh heavily.

Once the band under the colonnade finishes its Austrian marches at 4pm, silence reigns as scores of factory workers pace up and down, sipping a water still renowned for possessing curative properties.

By 8pm, with all lights out, the spa is a ghostly stage-set of former glories. "It is a miracle that the water has resisted the local pollution," but Marienbad is a place of miracles," Dr Ales Sennsivier, who has been a resident physician for more than three decades, says.

"Here your King Edward had tea with the Austrian emperor. The entire spa was constructed for the benefit of a class the Communists did their best to destroy and yet... Marienbad still lives," he says, pointing to the abandoned English church with its monument to Edward VII barely preserved amid the shattered stained glass.

The physician will also be voting for the Greens, who are believed locally to stand a good chance of polling the five per cent needed to qualify to send MPs to the new parliament.

But Civil Forum is also running a high profile campaign in the spas, making use of the loudspeakers the Communists erected on every street during the 1970s to broadcast Stalinist readings.

A population sensing the imminent profits of a booming tourist industry are convinced that the Forum's commitment to making Czechoslovakia "again a part of Europe" is the sole guarantee of future prosperity.

"The Greens are inexperienced and split," Mrs Tamara Harvartova, a physiotherapist from nearby Frantiskovsky Lazne (Franzensbad), says. "Here they are for nuclear power, but in the south they are against it. The Forum has friends in America and Moscow, that is the safest way for us here."

Social charter fails its first EC hurdle

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

IN A setback to proponents of the Social Charter, the European Commission yesterday was forced to postpone its first directive based on it after heated disagreement among the 17 commissioners over the legality and need for the proposed measure.

Mrs Vasso Papandreu, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, was ordered to redraft a plan to force employers to offer part-time workers the same social benefits as full-time employees and pay them the same *pro rata* rates. She was also instructed at a stormy meeting of the Commission to find better justification for her proposal to implement the measure by majority vote instead of unanimity.

The setback brings immediate comfort to Britain, which fiercely opposes the measure and claims the drastic increase in costs would destroy many of the part-time jobs created in recent years. Britain can also take comfort from the fact that it is not alone in its opposition: West Germany, Denmark, and several other countries are also aghast at Mrs Papandreu's plans.

Sir Leon Brittan, the principal opponent in the Commission of the Social Charter, and several of his colleagues argued that Brussels could not legitimately base the directive on a treaty clause dealing with the implementation of the Single Market, which allows majority voting. Instead, they said, it was clearly a measure dealing with social protection, and should therefore be approved by all member states unanimously, thus enabling opponents to veto it.

comparable weight," Herr Rebmann said.

Conrad retired from the Army in 1985 and stayed on in the Federal Republic with his German wife. He lived in some style and continued to sell information gleaned from his contacts still in the Army. He even tried to recruit other US servicemen to work as agents, succeeding once by paying a soldier more than DM10,000.

He was eventually arrested in August, 1988, after a joint operation by West German, US and Swedish counter-espionage agents. A month earlier he had made his last "delivery" to his Hungarian spy-master in Vienna.

The investigation showed that the eight members of the ring had specialized in gathering information from US servicemen and passing it on to the Hungarian secret service, which was acting as a surrogate for the KGB.

The case was heard in a West German civil court and not before an American military tribunal because Conrad was a civilian living in West Germany at the time of his arrest.

Highest-paid spy jailed for life

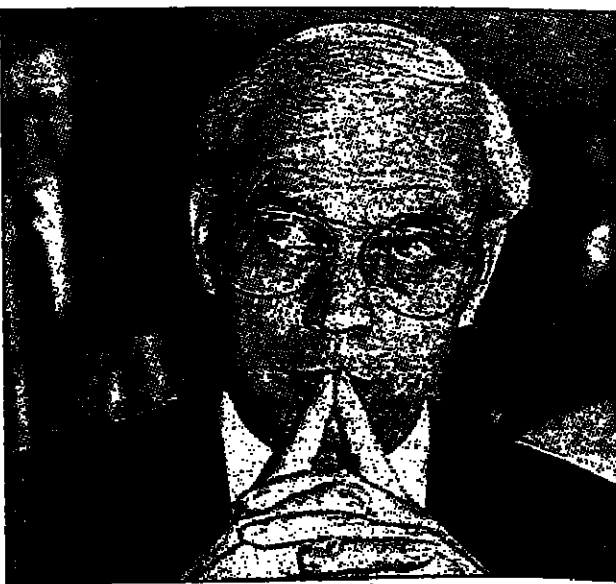
FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A RETIRED American army sergeant, said to have been the highest paid spy caught by the West, received a life sentence yesterday from the civil court in Koblenz for "the worst case of high treason" reported to the Federal Prosecutor's Office in West Germany.

The court was told that Clyde Lee Conrad was paid at least DM2.2 million (£800,000) by the communist former Hungarian and Czechoslovak governments between 1975 and 1985 for military secrets which could have put West Germany at risk and endangered the 250,000 US troops stationed here.

A professional soldier from Bergholz, Ohio, he had joined the Army in 1965 and was transferred to the 8th Infantry Division based in Bad Kreuznach, near Mainz, in 1980, when he became the trusted document custodian in charge of a confidential archive which contained secret defence plans for West German territory.

Some of the plans he had access to had the top grading of "cosmic secret" and concerned American nuclear missile bases as well as the



Clyde Lee Conrad awaiting his sentence yesterday

Czechs question former leaders

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

MR MILOŠ Jakes and four other hardline former Communist leaders in Czechoslovakia were detained just days before the country holds its first free parliamentary elections in 44 years, for their part in inviting the Soviet Union and four other Warsaw Pact countries to invade Czechoslovakia and suppress the 1968 Prague Spring.

Mr Jakes and the others were questioned by justice officials and all, apart from Mr Vasil Bilak, the Communists' former chief ideologist, were later released.

Mr Andrej Samel, the Deputy Interior Minister, told Reuters news agency the five were detained at the request of Mr Tibor Boehm, the federal prosecutor.

"They are suspected of violating the law in connection with the entry of the five (Warsaw Pact) armies on August 21, 1968, and other criminal acts such as abuse of power," Mr Samel said.

"I cannot exclude that other people acting against the law and the security of this country could be detained," he added.

Mr Jakes, the Communist General Secretary, was detained after last November's "velvet revolution" was announced along with Mr Bilak, the man suspected of inviting the Soviet Union to invade Czechoslovakia. Mr Bilak, a Slovak, was named as successor to Mr Alexander Dubcek as Slovak party chief when Mr Dubcek took over as Communist Party chief from Antonin Novotny and was named in the Prague Spring.

The other men detained were Mr Rudolf Hegensbart, the former head of the Central Committee's "state administration department" which ran the StB, the secret police, Mr Michal Stefanak, Mr Bilak's successor as head of the party's foreign department, and Mr Josef Lennart, a former Politburo member.

Mr Hegensbart has been suspected of being one of the organizers of a suspected *putsch* attempt last November 17 that turned instead into the revolution and threw the Communists from power.

Mr Jakes presided over the purges of the Communist Party in the years of neo-Stalinist normalization after the invasion. Mr Bilak was one of the first to be stripped of his membership by the Communist Party in the wake of the revolution and was expelled from the party in February.

The only senior party figure to be detained previously was Mr Miroslav Stepan, the Prague party boss at the time of the revolution and the man suspected of giving the order to beat students in the November 17 demonstration.

Mr Bilak was held on Tuesday in the Slovak capital Bratislava, a spokesman for the Slovak Interior Minister said. Mr Lennart, Mr Stefanak and Mr Jakes were detained in the Prague region in a co-ordinated police action, the Interior Ministry said.

The timing of their detention may also have been connected with President Havel's one-day visit to Moscow for a Warsaw Pact meeting.

Mr Dubcek, now chairman of the Federal Assembly, visited Moscow at the head of a delegation to demand documents about the invasion.

Meanwhile, Civil Forum announced that it had removed an unspecified number of people from its list of election candidates because they were suspected of having been secret police informers.

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Policy shift in Ethiopia opens way to peace talks

From REUTER in ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Government, its Army locked in fierce fighting with Eritrean rebels, has signalled a key policy shift which could open the way to full-scale peace talks on ending Africa's longest civil war.

The Government of President Mengistu said in a statement that it would allow the United Nations to act as observer to peace negotiations with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

"This is an enormous breakthrough. It is extremely important in unblocking the current logjam and getting the talks going," one Western diplomat said.

After exploratory talks last year the front, which is fighting for independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea, said it would not attend further talks on ending the 28-year war unless the United Nations agreed to send observers. The peace process, chaired by the former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter,

and co-chaired by Tanzania's former President, Mr Julius Nyerere, ground to a halt when the United Nations said it could not attend unless invited by the Ethiopian Government.

Although the Government maintained it had no objection to UN participation, it did not formally invite the world body to join the other chosen observers — the Organization of African Unity, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.

But the government statement said: "The Government... has taken additional measures outside the procedures originally agreed on for the conduct of the preliminary talks to enable the UN to serve as an observer in the substantive negotiations."

The statement, which did not elaborate on the plan, was issued late on Tuesday after two days of intensive meetings among Ethiopia's military leadership, diplomats said.

They said the Government's new position, which surprised analysts in the Ethiopian capital, appeared linked to reports of a deteriorating military situation around the Eritrean capital, Asmara.

The Eritrean front has claimed major victories over government forces, who lost the key Red Sea port of Massawa in February and whose only link between Asmara and Addis Ababa is by air.

"I think this new position has come about because of the military situation as much as because of external pressure," a Western diplomat said.

The Soviet Union, for years Ethiopia's main military supplier, has reportedly been pressing President Mengistu to negotiate an end to wars both with the Eritrean front and with another rebel group in the north, the Tigré People's Liberation Front.

The Eritrean front which called last month for a UN-sponsored referendum to decide the future of Eritrea, was dismissive of the Government's new stance, saying it had come too late.

"I do not think we are interested in this. We cannot play hide-and-seek with them any more," a front spokesman in London said.

"This new statement is not a change of heart. It is just more manoeuvring, delaying tactics," he said, but declined to say if the Eritreans would actually refuse to attend fresh talks.

The capture of Massawa was a big blow to President Mengistu. At a stroke, it cut off the main route for food aid for up to 4.5 million people facing starvation — half of whom are believed to be in Eritrea.

International aid agencies fear that, if the fighting around Asmara intensifies, relief efforts will be further disrupted and a catastrophic famine matching that of 1984-1985 may result.

"Whether there is a major famine depends on two factors — war and rain. If there is peace, there is no real threat," said Mr Chris Mason, of the British-based charity, Oxfam.

In Tuesday's statement, the Government also agreed to allow the use of Massawa to bring in food supplies for famine victims.

Diplomats said that it left open the possibility of the port coming under interim UN control.

Bus attack kills 18 in Karachi

Karachi — Gunmen shot dead 18 people in Karachi yesterday shortly before the start of talks to end Mohajir-Sindhi violence which has claimed more than 170 lives in two weeks (Zahid Hussain writes).

The attack, on a bus carrying workers to a cement factory, was the worst in the Sind provincial capital for several days.

School raided

Paris — Vandals broke into a high school in Gien, 75 miles south of Paris, and painted swastikas on the walls and left behind blood-soaked human bones. The raid was reminiscent of a wave of recent neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic vandalism across France. (AP)

Drug testing

Sydney — Esso Australia said it will introduce random drug and alcohol tests for workers in July, prompted by the Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska and a US corporate trend. (Reuters)

Tamil victory

Colombo — The Sri Lankan Government, granting a demand from the Tamil Tigers, said it would dissolve the provincial council in the Tamil-dominated North-East and organize fresh elections. (Reuters)

Embassy opens

Paris — France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan next week, more than a year after most foreign missions in Kabul were closed, because security has improved. (Reuters)

King improves

Oslo — King Olav of Norway, at 86 the world's oldest head of state, was reported to be improving in hospital after suffering a stroke and pneumonia. (Reuters)

Amazon crash

São Paulo — An aircraft with 43 passengers on board crashed in the Amazon region of Brazil, killing 16 people. (Reuters)

Britain gets tough on African aid

By MICHAEL KNIFE AND ANDREW MCEWEN

A VEILED warning to African governments to introduce more democracy, increase public accountability and pay greater respect to market principles if they wished to receive foreign aid, was issued yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

With the increased competition for aid, donors are now less likely to ignore the relative effectiveness, said Mr Hurd. It had to go where it could do most good. Too many of Africa's resources had been dissipated by war, bad management and corruption, he added.

This new British hard line on aid was also emphasized in a sharp attack yesterday by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, on the management of UN development agencies. In a speech in Geneva she said there was "troubling and rising dissatisfaction" with their work. She also told *The Times* that her aim was to bring about immediate management improvement in the United Nations Development

Programme, the main UN development agency.

If improvements were not made, Britain would have to consider whether the money it contributes could be used better by channelling it through other agencies.

Mr Hurd did not single out any African country. A similar approach has been voiced by the United States.

Foreign aid was increasingly likely to be considered in the light of certain criteria, Mr Hurd said. "Countries tending towards pluralism, public accountability, respect for the rule of law, human rights and market principles should be encouraged," he added.

"Governments who persist with repressive policies, with corrupt management, or with wasteful and discredited economic systems should not expect us to support their folly with scarce aid."

The plight of African countries was strikingly different from that of South-East Asian states, which although less well-endowed had advanced rapidly in the past decade.



SIKHS protesting in London yesterday outside the Indian High Commission on the sixth anniversary of Operation Blue Star, when the Indian authorities stormed the Golden Temple at Amritsar in Punjab to drive out separatist militants and 1,000 people died.

Indian police yesterday sealed off the temple and detained 400 Sikhs in an attempt to prevent protests (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Police said they took youth leaders and politicians, including Mr Sharad Singh Mann, an MP, into preventive detention. More than 2,000 police and para-military troops, many armed with automatic weapons, stopped all vehicles at entrances to the city, near the Pakistan border.

Rebels poised to take Monrovia

By LIBBY JUKES

REBEL forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia were preparing yesterday for a final assault on Monrovia after taking control of Firestone Plantation, the world's biggest rubber plantation, and the main towns near Robertsfield, Liberia's only international airport.

US Embassy personnel confirmed that the rebels had captured the towns of Harbel and Owensgrove and would probably consolidate these gains before moving against Monrovia. The rebels are now thought to control Roberts-

field, 35 miles east of the capital. One US official said that the mood in Monrovia was apprehensive, with shops virtually empty of provisions, most schools closed, and people staying at work for only a couple of hours each day.

Members of the Krahn and Mandingo tribes, from which President Doe of Liberia drew support, fear reprisal killings if the mainly Gio and Mano rebels enter the capital. Many have escaped to the north-eastern Grand Gedeh region.

However, there are no im-

mediate plans to send in the US Marines, who are standing by in a six-ship task force off the Liberian coast, because patriots are not believed to be in imminent danger, the US official said.

Meanwhile, the chief military adviser to Mr Charles Taylor, the rebels' leader, was yesterday reported missing and feared dead by rebels after a clash with government troops fleeing Monrovia. The rebels apparently fired on a lorry in which he was riding, believing it to be part of an army convoy. The Liberian

information ministry had announced on Tuesday night that Mr Johnson died during renewed fighting in Grand Gedeh county.

The rebels are under strict instructions from Mr Taylor to avoid damaging foreign property. He wants to convince Western businessmen that their interests would not be jeopardized by a National Patriotic Front government.

"I just happen to be a die-hard, cold-blooded capitalist, and I'm proud of it," he told reporters yesterday.

Natal test for de Klerk reforms

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Government faced the first electoral test of its reform policies yesterday in a parliamentary by-election regarded as a barometer of white opinion on the dismantling of apartheid.

The poll in the Natal constituency of Umlazi is the first since President de Klerk launched his reform initiatives last September and began peace talks with the African National Congress a few months later.

The conventional wisdom is that the ruling National Party will retain the seat with a reduced majority. Analysts believe the Nationalists have been losing support to the Conservatives, but gaining the confidence of the liberal Democrats, which may pre-empt a close result.

Mr Con Botha, who was recently appointed Administrator of Natal, held the Umlazi seat in last September's general election with a majority of 2,835. Despite substantial gains in other provinces, however, the Conservatives failed to win a seat in the largely English-speaking Natal.

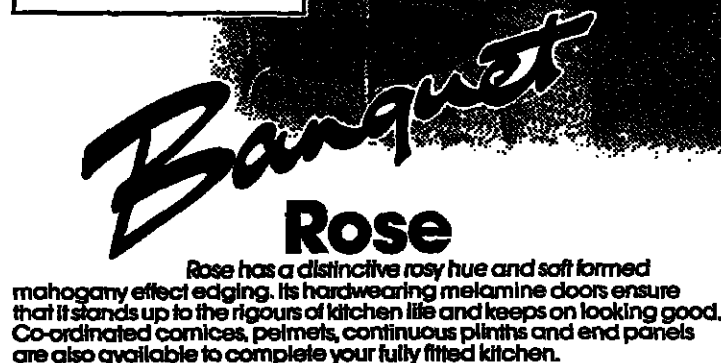
Police said that they were searching for a murder suspect, who was not connected with the Mandela family, and that people looking after the properties co-operated "in a good spirit". The suspect was not found.

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Setback for UK-Iran hopes as Rushdie threat is reaffirmed

By HAZIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran yesterday restated his wish for a resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain, but appeared to immediately quash the possibility by saying that the death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie, the novelist — the main cause of the rift between the two countries last year — would remain in force.

Addressing foreign and Iranian reporters in Tehran, after a week of mourning to mark the first anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic state who pronounced the *fatwa* on Mr Rushdie, he said that, in principle, Iran had no difficulty in restoring relations with Britain, and that both countries desired a normalization of ties.

"If Mrs Thatcher condemns Rushdie's novel", he added, "there will remain no problem on the way of a resumption of ties, but we have no right to withdraw the late imam's *fatwa*. It stays as it is."

The Foreign Office in London had no immediate comment on the statement, but President Rafsanjani's remarks are bound to strengthen the impression abroad that he remains vulnerable to pressure from Islamic extremists on the fringes of his Government. These include Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nominal leader of the state, who called on Britain on Tuesday to hand Mr Rushdie over to British Muslims "so that the verdict of God might be carried out on him".

An observer of Iranian poli-

tics said yesterday: "Rafsanjani has struck upon the strategy that the Rushdie affair is a religious quarrel between all the world's Muslims, on the one hand, and an offending individual on the other. This assumes that Khomeini's order to kill a British subject on British soil does not amount to international terrorism, which it clearly does, and when Britain protects its subject from potential assassins, Iran interprets it as an act of enmity towards Islam as a religion."

The observer said that even a formal announcement by the Iranian Government that it was no longer pursuing the death of Mr Rushdie would not necessarily remove the threat to the author's life. "A number of quasi-governmental organizations, such as the Foundation for the Deprived in Tehran, have announced rewards amounting to several million pounds for a successful assassination of Rushdie," the observer said. "These would have to be lifted, too. But the organizations are in the control of Rafsanjani's critics."

The news conference in Tehran was manipulated by Mr Rafsanjani's aides, who tried to spare him questions about Mr Rushdie and the Western hostages in Lebanon.

But when pressed on the issue of the captives, he blamed the United States for failing to press for the release of Muslims held by Israel and Iranians seized by Lebanese Christians.

"The way is now open for

the United States to act, if they want to solve the hostage problem," the Iranian leader said. "We expected a favourable reply. I can say we did not get one."

He devoted the bulk of the session to his readiness to meet President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to conclude a peace agreement between the two countries.

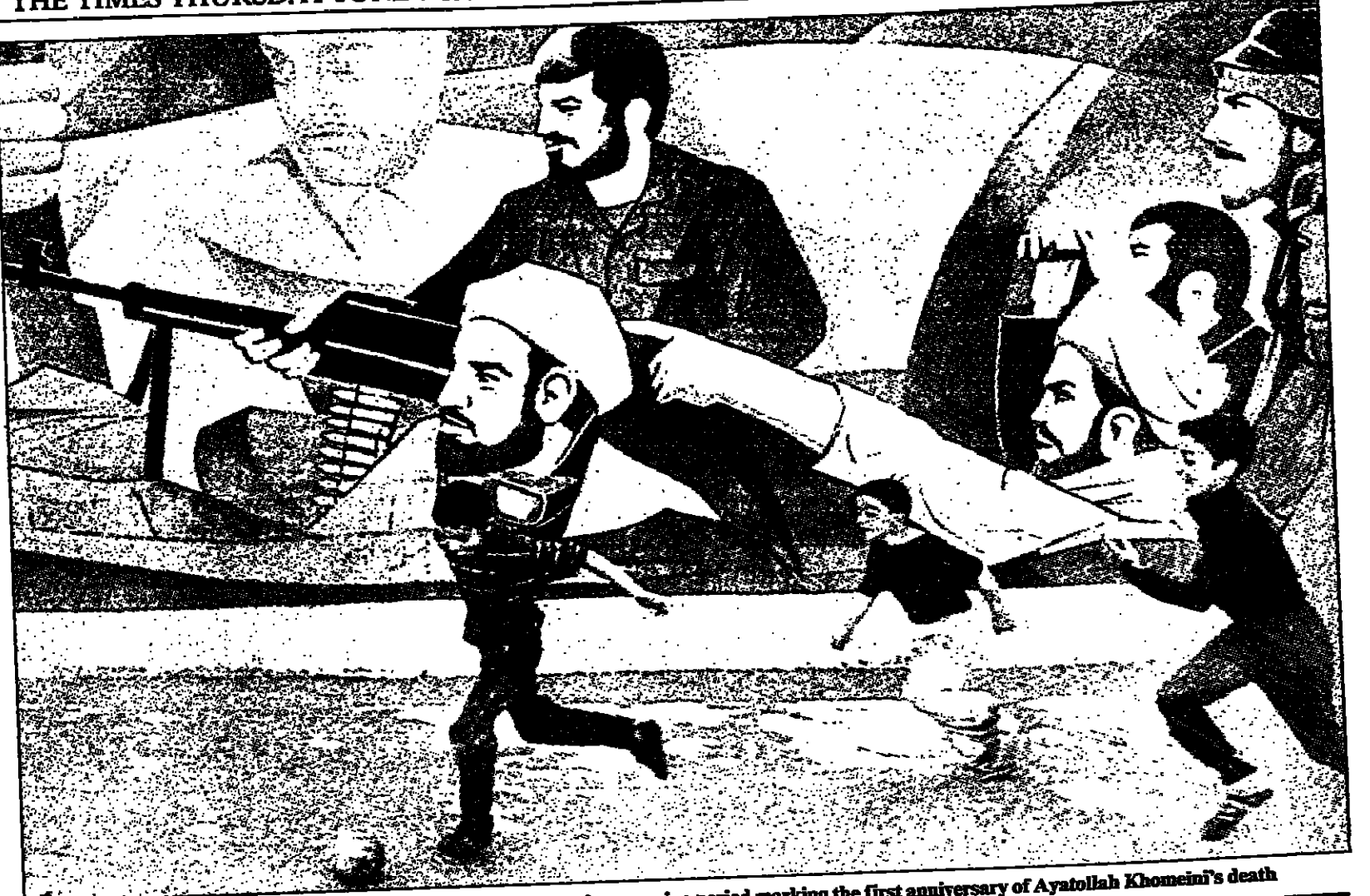
"We have not given a negative reply to Iraq's proposal calling for a meeting of the two heads of state," President Rafsanjani said.

"But issues must be sorted out in preliminary negotiations at expert level and in consultations with the United Nations Secretary-General to guarantee the success of such a meeting, if there is going to be one."

But he added that the declaration of the recent Arab summit in Baghdad that Iraq had full sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf had "shaken Iran's confidence" in the Iraqi leader's intentions.

Sovereignty of the waterway remains the main stumbling block to talks which have been stalled since 1988. A 15-year-old international treaty gives the countries joint sovereignty over the waterway.

President Rafsanjani said he had turned down an offer by Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, to mediate between Iran and Iraq. Mr Arafat's letter had come with one from President Saddam, and emphasized the issues raised by Iraq, he said.



Children playing in Tehran again yesterday after the end of a mourning period marking the first anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's death

Students set free in China

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINESE authorities yesterday released 97 people imprisoned for their involvement in last year's student-led demonstrations, including two students originally on the list of 21 most wanted dissidents. These are the first public releases of anyone on that list.

The official Xinlun news agency referred to all 97 as "lawbreakers", and said they had "pleaded guilty and voluntarily confessed their wrongdoings and expressed a willingness to repent". The agency described their release as an act of government leniency. It did not explain why they had been held for 11 months without trial.

Some of those released had voluntarily surrendered to the authorities, the agency said. One of the two students from the most wanted list is Xiong Wei, aged 25, an electronics student from Qinghua University, who was persuaded by his mother to surrender. Xiong Fengso, aged 24, a physics student also from Qinghua University, had been informed on by his sister.

Since last June the Government has encouraged people to inform on family members. But ordinary Chinese say the number of such informants has dropped because of widespread sympathy for pro-democracy demonstrators. Reflecting this, only a third of the 21 on the original most wanted list were ever arrested by police.

About 784 people were freed in January and May, suggesting that police investigations are now nearing an end, and that those who are being blamed for the "counter-revolutionary rebellion" will soon go on trial. Meanwhile, three dissidents who disappeared last Thursday, just before they were due to give a press conference calling for the release of all political prisoners, have still not reappeared.

● HONG KONG: Chinese officials complained to the British Government after a shot was fired into the window of a building belonging to the New China News Agency (Jonathan Braude writes). The agency houses Peking's de facto consulate in Hong Kong.

Stopgap Kaifu rides wave of popularity

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

MR TOSHIKI Kaifu, who had greatness thrust on him last autumn when he was given the job of Japanese Prime Minister, for want of anyone more suitable, has become something of a political rags-to-riches story. An opinion poll by the Kyodo news agency shows him to be the most popular leader since it began such surveys in 1964.

Some analysts suggest that Mr Kaifu, forced by his weak domestic power base to look for friends abroad, is reaping the rewards of having injected a more international flavour into Japan's stuffy politics. Mr Kaifu barely seems to have enough time to unpack his suitcases before heading off somewhere else. He has toured Europe and Asia and made the obligatory (for Japanese Prime Ministers) pilgrimage to the United States.

His approach happened to coincide with a new wave of thinking among Foreign Ministry bureaucrats, who decided the time had come for Japan to play a bigger role on the world stage. Japan's move to host Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo this week — its debut as an international peace-broker — signalled its desire to have a say in developments in Asia.

The negotiations, boycotted by the Khmer Rouge, brought a joint call for a ceasefire from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the resistance leader, and Mr Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Vietnamese-backed Government in Phnom Penh.

Mr Kaifu's decision to tour Eastern Europe soon after taking office was meant to show that Japan is no longer happy just to write the cheques, but wants a say in how the world evolves after the Cold War.

His biggest success has been in improving relations with Washington, which were fraying over trade. US demands for easier access for its exporters diverted attention away from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's domestic problems and gave Mr Kaifu a chance to prove himself with the electorate. Many voters found they agreed with the American call to encourage more cheap US imports.

Sweet words from President Bush about what a good job Mr Kaifu's bold leadership was doing to strengthen Japan-America ties swelled the Prime Minister's popularity.

Mr Kaifu appears to be scandal-free — a rarity in Japanese politics — and he is

an energetic drum beater. He speaks well — a relief after Mr Noboru Takeshita, whose vague delivery is said to have baffled even close advisers.

Another reason for Mr Kaifu's popularity was revealed in yesterday's Kyodo poll. Although 63 per cent of respondents said they approved of his performance, 31.9 per cent said they did so only because "there is no one else". Most of the LDP's leaders are still recovering from their involvement in the Recruit bribery scandal.

The poll's results are awkward for the party elders, who had not expected Mr Kaifu to last so long. He is even more popular than Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was probably Japan's best-known Prime Minister abroad until Mr Takeshita and Mr Sosuke Uno, who was involved in a ginsai scandal, managed to make their names familiar to the world last year.

While the LDP's elders will let Mr Kaifu rule for the time being, they are fighting over his successor already. They also know that, however popular he may be abroad and whatever voters tell pollsters, the public has little say in picking Prime Ministers.

Refugees make for Australia

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is preparing for a new wave of Asian boat people for the first time in 10 years — Cambodian refugees who are risking longer and more hazardous sea voyages to escape renewed fighting in their country.

Officials said yesterday they believed Australia was now the most attractive destination for Cambodian refugees who wanted to avoid detention in Indonesia's chronically over-crowded camps. As the annual "sailing season" for the boat people gets under way, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra said that three boatloads of Cambodians have already made journeys of some 2,000 miles to get here.

A ministry spokesman denied reports that Indonesia was turning back refugee boats and forcing them to continue on to Australia after Mr Neil Blawie, Australia's acting Foreign Minister, had an emergency meeting with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in Jakarta. Mr Blawie said yesterday: "Both Indonesia and Australia have a common interest in reducing incentives for boat people to leave Cambodia. The best way of doing that is achieving a peace settlement in Cambodia."

On Indonesia's Galang island, just south of Singapore, facilities are at breaking point, with about 1,500 Cambodians having joined 13,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Australian immigration officials suspect dealers are selling passages to Australia for up to \$350,000 (£900). Cambodian boat people reaching Australian waters are held in a camp 25 miles south of Darwin in the Northern Territory. There they live in army camps surrounded by barbed wire while the Government considers whether or not to accept them.

The Darwin camp has reached its capacity. An immigration official said: "It is an emergency camp. We'll be moving them."

Meanwhile, Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, yesterday announced provisions for Chinese students to stay on in Australia after the crackdown on pro-democracy supporters in China.



The go-between: Mr Kaifu, right, greeting Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian resistance, in Tokyo yesterday after hosting talks with Phnom Penh

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

Fate of British beef feeds Japanese pride

In Japan, where cattle are fed on oats and beer and are massaged by their owners, there has been a bout of "I told you so" sneering at the fate of the British and their mad cows. Japanese television crews have descended on "the beef-loving British" and those of us who thought we had as much chance of seeing Mr Gummer on our Tokyo TV screens as hearing Dan Maskell commenting on the sumo have suddenly become acquainted with our Agriculture Minister and his daughter.

The Japanese seem to pity the poor British, who have to eat unpurged cows, and feel this confirms the superiority of US pressure for Japan to buy meat from abroad. The Japanese have long argued that their uniqueness prevented them from importing everything from beef (not digestible for Japanese intestines) to French skis (do not grip on Japan's unique snow).

Now that they have been forced by Washington's trade bullies to allow American beef into Japanese kitchens, Japanese meat companies have begun buying up cattle ranches in the US and Australia to ensure that Japan imports beef raised the Japanese way and, of course, that

Japanese companies keep their profits.

But massaging and cossetting do not come cheap. The most prized Japanese beef, from Matsuzaka, is finely marbled with fat, like a very small-scale but detailed road map, and sells for 7,000 yen per 100 grams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound. Cheapgrams, or £120 a pound.

Japanese have always taken their food seriously: a feast for the eyes as well as for the palate, they like to say, although a few strips of raw tuna lounging on a twig of cherry blossom does not always adequately feast Western stomachs.

Now, splashing out at Western restaurants is the latest fad for rich Japanese who have run out of wrist space for Rolex. The extravagant ones go on pricey gourmet tours of Europe, but they are beginning to bristle at the two-faced welcome they have been receiving.

Let the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's financial daily, explain: "Often appearing in brochures touting gourmet tours are the words 'A gorgeous separate dining room has been specially prepared for our Japanese guests'. But all is not as it seems on the surface. Some travel

industry people say that, recently, Japanese gourmets have started showing up at first-class European hotels and restaurants.

"Their atrocious table manners have prompted these establishments to set up separate dining rooms for Japanese patrons. They clap when the food is served. They snap pictures like cameras were going out of fashion. Generally, they make it difficult for other guests to enjoy their meals — thus the separate rooms."

Back in Tokyo, bar owners and restaurateurs are always looking for new ways to satisfy the Japanese appetite for novelty. Mock Venetian palazzi go up overnight at one Tokyo bar you can ski, indoors, between drinks. Perhaps the most arresting of the latest crop is a bar which has picked the Olympic Games as its theme. The year it has chosen is 1936, presumably because Berlin is hip with young Japanese at the moment. But there is something eerie about sipping cold lager in central Tokyo amid the Nazi German décor of Hitler's games.

Because this Olympic bar serves Santory beer, you can be sure that few of its patrons will come from, say, Mitsubishi, the

giant trading firm, or Sumitomo Bank. Mitsubishi employees drink Kirin beer and Sumitomo salarymen gulp Asahi. The reason? Japanese workers have intense loyalty to firms affiliated with their own. These webs of affiliated companies, known as *keiretsu*, drive foreign traders up the wall because Japanese companies prefer to do business within the web, even if the prices are higher. This loyalty is so powerful that one Japanese hotelier boasts: "You cannot call yourself a real hotel man unless you can tell what a guest's favourite brand of beer is simply from the company he works for."

Japan may have lessons for Britain's hard-hit steelmakers as well as for its cattle ranchers. Before British Steel puts Ravenscraig in mothballs, it should look at how Japanese steelmakers have put redundant workers to use by diversifying out of steel. NKK, Japan's second biggest steelmaker, for example, has put ex-steelmen to work on a pig farm. They sell bacon and sausages from the farm to stores and to a restaurant they have opened. If nothing else, Ravenscraig's best should be able to weld the crusts on to British Rail meat pies.

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BEST ESTIMATING

B&Q

Making good the Lords

John Grigg

The Lords' rejection of the War Crimes Bill has re-awakened debate on the future of the second chamber, already a general election issue, as the Labour Party is at least theoretically committed to replacing it with an elected body. Drastic reform is certainly overdue, but would an all-elected chamber be best? If the mode of election were still first-past-the-post, the new body would reinforce the faults of the present system. If it were elected on a more truly representative basis, its moral authority would be greater than that of the House of Commons, which could hardly be expected to vote for the creation of such a rival.

Besides, there are great advantages in being able to bring into Parliament some people who would never offer themselves as political candidates. Governments have benefited from the occasional recruit from outside politics (eg Lord Woolton), and the value of such recruits to Parliament as a whole is obvious. Few would deny that the chief merit of the existing House of Lords is the presence in it of eminent figures from almost every department of national life.

The House currently has two crippling flaws. The first, long recognized, is its basically hereditary character. As Nancy Astor pertinently asked, who would think of having hereditary cricket teams? All the arguments put forward in support of the automatic right of hereditary peers to sit in Parliament are demonstrably false or at best specious. It is said that hereditary peers are more independent than those who are not. But independence is a quality of mind and character that a privileged background does not, by itself, confer. There have ever been servile party hacks among the hereditary peers. Another argument is that the hereditary peerage is more representative, since it is a random group, rather like a jury. But juries are far more broadly based, socially and economically, than the hereditary peerage.

It is further argued that for politics, as for horse-racing, breeding counts, and that there are political families, as there are musical, medical and sporting families. But the British second chamber is just about the only sphere in which hereditary talent does not have to prove itself in action. A racehorse, however good its breeding, has to race.

Finally, there is the contention that only by the hereditary process can youth be brought into the second chamber. This is a fallacy; younger members could be introduced by a much better method. The age-balance certainly needs to be rectified, since the next most serious flaw in the existing House of Lords is its markedly ancient character. This has been made far worse by the Life Peerages Act of 1958, for most life peers are appointed in the late afternoon or early evening of their lives.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

I remember an old cartoon in which the Thurber woman looks up at her man and says: "Ah yes, but you're you and I'm only me"; there is a lot of that going on.

A Westminster Council Cleansing Department officer buzzed my buzzer one weekend to tell me that my black rubbish bag had no right to be on the pavement until Monday am, and if I did not mend my ways there would be a statutory fine. Some weeks later, when I put out the bag at dawn on the designated day, it remained in situ for 48 hours; there was no door on which I could beat a tattoo to get my own back.

Restaurants, when you book a table, now ask you for your name and address and telephone number — and the great and angry Nico Ladenis is reputed to demand the details of your credit card also — so the proper vengeance can be taken on those who fail to honour their commitments.

flight number, because the car hire people needed it. David said he would get on to Avro Tours, the operating charterers and ring me back. He rang back. Avro Tours, member of the Association of British Travel Agents and holder of an Air Travel Organizer's Licence, having advertised the flight and taken my money, found — possibly due to the 3.30am departure — that there was not much call for the excursion and cancelled it. David thought that because few people had booked, they had not bothered to announce the cancellation or tell the travel agents that they were in what is called a "non-flight situation". They have known about this for three weeks, said David, replete with umbrage.

I asked whether ABTA and other important associations who had accorded them the dignity of membership would pay compensation. "No," said David, but having acquainted Avro of my displeasure, they would exceptionally and without accepting liability be prepared to refund my money or find me another flight. Trouble is, there is no other flight on that Sunday evening; there is a British Airways scheduled flight the following morning, but the cost is more than they are prepared to pay... so it's me off to Stansted for an 11.45am departure on Monday, which means that the first day of my holiday will be spent travelling. David said that if I'd not been me — with a title and a column in a newspaper — I might not have found out until I'd got to Gatwick.

"Will ABTA and ATOL expel them?" I asked. "Heaven, no," said David: "you have to be real villains to get expelled." Avro operates from Haydon Road, London SW19, which makes me realize that I should have written nice things about Citia, who flew me to Naples with style and efficiency and astonishingly acceptable in-flight apple pie and cream last week. Should you go to Italy because you feel you have to watch the World Cup, look no further. If you fly elsewhere, beware.

Michael Evans on the words that must change as alliance leaders meet in Scotland today

Nato gropes for a jargon of peace

It is difficult for a successful alliance to drop or temper the familiar terminology associated with 40 years of the cold war. Why, the argument goes, give up well proven principles and military or political strategies — and the language that goes with them — when they have helped to keep the peace in Europe? But the reunification of Germany and the external security issues it raises for the Soviet Union and the Nato alliance demand a total change of perspective and of language.

If Nato and the Warsaw Pact issue a special statement on Germany's security role, as President Gorbachev proposed at the Washington summit, the choice of language will be a test case for East and West. Words will have to be found to satisfy all the groups with vested interests: the German people, Nato, Moscow, the Soviet military, Germany's East European neighbours. They will also have to satisfy Mr Gorbachev himself, for the German question is a key part of his personal struggle to survive as Soviet leader.

Nato foreign ministers meeting in Scotland today will have to

address this conundrum, and contemplate the ways in which the alliance can change its structure and organization so as to emerge more political and less military.

Cold war language should have no part to play in the debate. Yet Nato is still armed with the catchphrases that have served so well in the past: forward defence, flexible response, an appropriate mix of conventional and nuclear forces, and so on. In the short term (five years), there is no other logical strategy, for the Soviet Union remains a military superpower and Mr Gorbachev's moves to democracy are not irreversible.

But the reunification of Germany, which will go ahead whatever fate befalls Mr Gorbachev, requires a comprehensive rethink of Nato's strategy for central Europe. And there may be a need to sacrifice such sacred cows as "flexible response" and "forward defence". This is partly because the East Germans will be unwilling to join an alliance that still smells of cold war militarism, but principally because if there is to be a new European security framework that is acceptable to everyone, existing operational concepts

will have to be modified, transformed, or scrapped.

There is already evidence of fresh thinking in Nato. The communiqué issued by its Defence Planning Committee in Brussels two weeks ago predicted fundamental changes in the alliance's defence posture "in the longer term". The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, acknowledged the West's changing attitude in an interview with *Izvestia* six days later.

The principles of Nato's strategy review will be outlined at the London summit next month, and should help to convince the Soviet leadership that, in the words of the Defence Planning Committee communiqué, the Western alliance wants "a co-operative, non-confrontational, approach to the challenges that lie ahead".

Yet the prospect of a united Germany being a member of Nato is still viewed by Moscow as a threat to the security of the Soviet Union. Moscow's sensitivities can be respected by synchronizing future developments. An expanded arms control programme, the transformation of Nato and the Warsaw Pact into co-operating

political and security alliances, and greater institutionalized involvement of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) all have to coincide.

The basic elements of a deal on Germany's security status were offered to the Soviet Union by President Bush at last week's summit. They include a pledge to keep Nato troops out of East Germany and to allow Soviet forces to stay put for a transitional period of up to five years. But to demonstrate that the West is prepared to take much bolder steps now that there is no longer a military threat from the Warsaw Pact, the alliance should be able to commit itself further, although only on certain conditions, which need to be spelled out.

To the Bush package could be added a commitment to reduce the German Bundeswehr — by up to 20 per cent if Bonn agrees — and all other Nato forces in central Europe (including those of the United States) by 40-50 per cent. This could be synchronized with the withdrawal of the 380,000 Soviet troops from East Germany. A proportion, perhaps a third, of

the troops involved in the withdrawals by both sides should be demobilized.

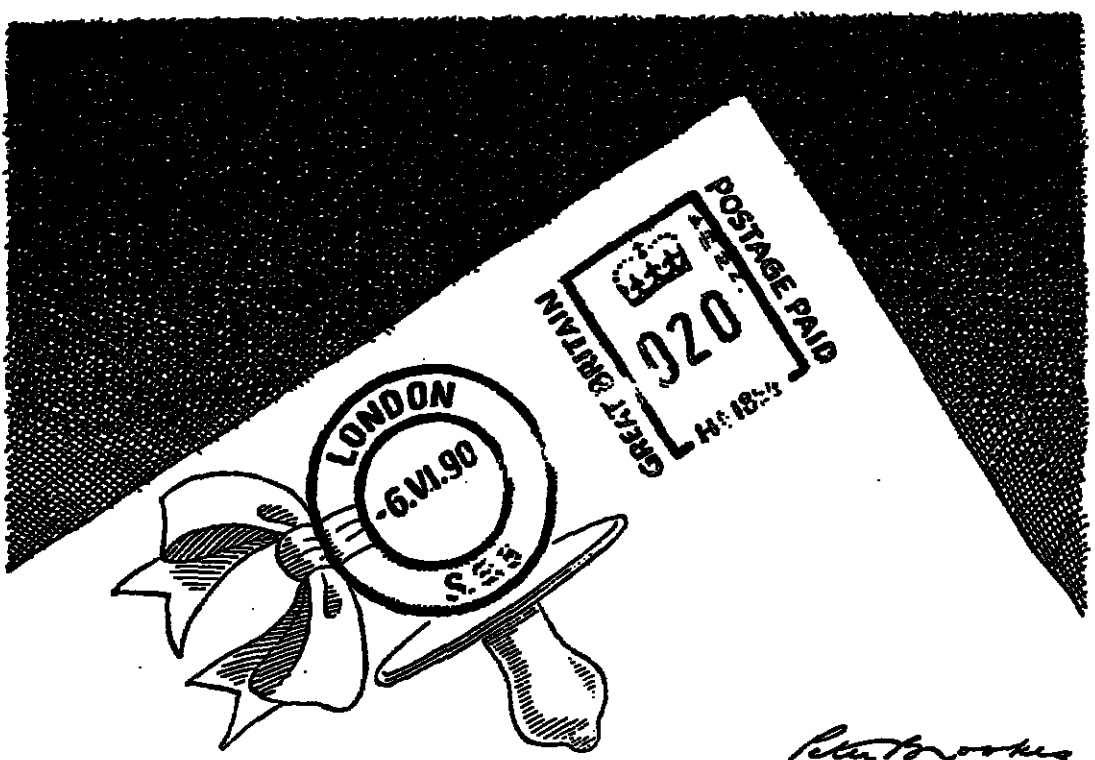
In the same five-year period, negotiations on short-range, land-based nuclear missiles in Europe should reduce tactical missiles and nuclear artillery shells to a minimum (200-300 warheads) on each side, with a view to elimination in 10 years (the so-called third zero).

Limiting the numbers of air-launched and sea-launched theatre nuclear missiles may also be on the agenda in the next five years, but Nato's planned replacement of old free-fall nuclear bombs with stand-off, medium-range missiles has to go ahead, and Moscow should be told that a "fourth zero" — elimination of air and sea-based missiles in Europe — cannot be contemplated while the Soviet Union remains such a significant military power.

These proposals can safely be offered, provided all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, that a treaty on conventional forces in Europe is signed and fully implemented, that the Soviet Union's democratic reforms are rigorously pursued, and that East-West relations continue to improve.

What on earth is Nanny doing in the letter-box?

Bernard Levin asks if there are to be no limits to the interfering ministrations of the Office of Fair Trading



members or subscribers, and throw away the kind of matter the recipient does not want.

For this most industry bleed, and the Post Office put its prices up. Or was I not justified in calling him a Nanny? For he was not advising caution in investment, or emphasizing the importance of thrift, or urging comparative shopping for consumer durables; he knows that most people own a wastepaper-basket, but he is so concerned to ensure that his charges shall never grow up that he will not, if he can help it, let them throw away their own rubbish. If the provision of rubbish is not stopped at source, so that it never gets into the hands of the nation, the nation, it seems, will collapse.

When you think about it, the question of who throws the rubbish away becomes curiously crucial. It is not just a symbol of Nannyism versus adult responsibility, but a most significant fork in the road: one path leads to the

real world, the other to a swamp of helplessness. It seems that the MPS "has only 311,000 names of people who have expressed a desire not to receive junk mail". You and I will conclude that there are therefore only 311,000 households, or individuals, who can be bothered to register with the MPS. But that will not do for Sir Gordon; no, "I believe that this low level of usage by the public is more likely to reflect a lack of knowledge of its existence than any lack of discontent with direct mail".

Very well, let us accept Sir Gordon's explanation. If he is right, many more people would sign up with the MPS if only they knew about it. The burden of my argument then shifts: what is the matter with those people that they are unable to throw away mail they do not want, but must needs hide someone else to do it?

Many years ago, I was appearing on *Any Questions*, and the World Cup series was about to begin. One of the questions went something

like this: "What can we do when we find that television and radio are putting out the World Cup whenever we switch on?" I was sent in to bat first; I drew a deep breath — I wanted a good deal of emphasis for what I was proposing to say — and started: "Switch the thing off," I said "and do something else. Go for a walk; knit; read a book; take up carpentry; talk to your companions; if all else fails, make love."

There were a few gasps, a modicum of applause, a little laughter and — quite clearly — a large number of people to whom my solution of their problem had never so much as occurred. I cannot see any difference in practice between the people who do not know what the switch on the television set is for, and those who want somebody to throw their junk mail away. In either case, is it not that matter for alarm? Or at any rate, shouldn't it be?

A terrible thought comes into my mind, and will not go away,

even though I throw stones at it. Am I entirely wasting my time? Do the British want to be nannied? When they see a heap of letters on the mat, would they be happier if there were a Junk Mail Warden on every corner, so that all they would have to do is put their heads out of the door and call him? Though even that will not quite do; much junk mail is well disguised, and some quite genuine letters look suspiciously junkworthy. We must then appoint Junk Mail Scrutinizers; these, when the Junk Mail Warden confesses himself baffled, will be empowered to open the dubious envelopes and read the contents, before either throwing them away as guilty, or handing them over as innocent.

Then, however, there must be Junk Mail Superintendents; these would, when the Junk Mail Scrutinizer pressed his Emergency Call Button, come running. You see, some weak-willed citizens, having asked, in the appropriate ceremony, for the Junk Mail filter, may see on the mat a document that, although undoubtedly Junk Mail, looks interesting; it would be the Junk Mail Superintendent's task to confiscate the item before the customer had a chance to read it.

The Junk Mail President — but you get the idea. None the less, I still want an answer to my question. Why, if people do not want the offers, promises, goods and enticements of junk mail, can they not simply throw such material into the dustbin, and shut up about it? Which brings me back to Sir Gordon Borrie, where I started. In the speech I referred to, he said, among other things, that "both targeting and content have to be above reproach to encourage public confidence".

No they don't; not, at least, in the case of households equipped with something to throw the rubbish in. What about building a wastepaper-basket so gigantic that it would easily swallow the entire Office of Fair Trading? To be on the safe side, we had better also build a fire-scraper, through which the building and everything in it would go before disposal. Provided, of course, that the Junk Mailmaster-General had given his permission.

Chamber of horrors

Strained relations between the Lords and the Commons will not be helped by a scathing assessment of the contribution of backbenchers to society, made by the Labour peer Lord "Ted" Willis. "A great many have digested the bitter truth that being an MP is only marginally better than being a dog warden, and they have had the good sense to find themselves something useful and remunerative to do outside the House," he says in *House Magazine*, the weekly journal of Parliament. "MPs protect their sanity, if not their lives, by travelling the world on what are laughingly called fact-finding tours. The rest drag themselves to Westminster, using it either as a club or a rest home. They justify their consciences by drafting private members' bills which propose such vital measures as a ban on ring-top drink cans, or preparing speeches that will never be delivered."

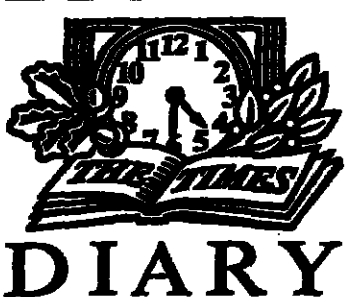
Willis, a playwright and television scriptwriter, has even less respect for the 100 or so MPs who make up the government. "It is one of the sadder features of life at Westminster that when MPs are appointed to government they take it literally. They are at once overcome with an irresistible urge actually to govern; in plain words, to meddle with matters about which they know little or nothing. Possession of a red box seems to turn them into legislative Rottweilers." Willis, best known as the creator of *Dixon of Dock Green*, says that talk about reforming or

abolishing the Lords is a decoy designed by MPs to divert attention away from the shortcomings of the Commons.

● The British Airways flight desk imparts the information that the London-Edinburgh shuttle leaves Heathrow at 16.00. And when does it touch down in Edinburgh? "17.15, local time." Isn't this taking devotion a little too far?

Nature's gentleman

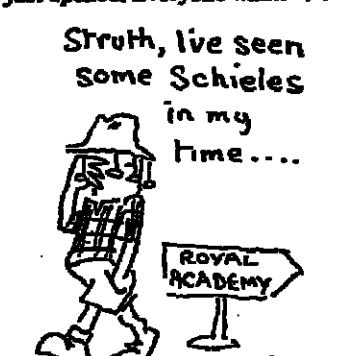
Not often can the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor and the Prime Minister have all had to sit still on a busy weekday and be lectured on the delights of sea trout fishing. Yet they had to yesterday at Lord Bruce-Gardyne's packed memorial service in St Margaret's, Westminster. Fishing has become a major pastime among the great and the good, and another political fisherman, Mr Nicholas Ridley, read from the words of yet another, Lord Grey of Fallodon: "Sea trout fishing offers more scope for the individuality of the angler. The season, after a long period of work in the stale air of cities, coincides with the first burst into freedom and fresh atmosphere." Wandering alone down glens and over moors, read Ridley, "the angler has a sense of physical energy and strength beyond all his experience in ordinary life... There are times when I have stood still for joy of it all." For a man who gloried in the beauty of nature as much as in the arguments of politics, there could have been no better epitaph.



● Paddy Ashdown was complaining yesterday that the most uncomfortable part of sleeping with the down-and-outs of Cardiff and City was the loud snoring of his neighbor for the night. Labour MP Frank Cook, Ashdown is also miffed that Cook had a box big enough for two, while he and his wife Jane had to make do with singles.

Question of taste

The Royal Academy has been swamped with sponsorship for its Summer Exhibition, just opened. Everyone wants to be



associated with this costly tradition, despite the disturbing presence of "A Mighty Blow for Freedom / For the Media", a bronze man swinging an axe at a television set, which blocks the entrance to gallery one. The German Expressionist Egon Schiele, whose works are scheduled for show from November 25, has failed to gain such acceptance. His explicit paintings of genitalia, with titles such as "Black Haired Girl with Skirt Turned Up" and "Cardinal and Nun Cress", are enjoying a boom in auction houses, but have so far been rebuffed by the sponsors. "Companies were turned off when they saw the work, and were frightened of putting clients off their canapés," says a mole.

Birthday party

Has Harold Pinter, who publishes his first novel, *The Dancer*, on October 1, mistimed his rum? Speculation is mounting as to whether the publication date nine days before his sixtieth birthday disqualifies him for the new Segretarius Prize for authors who publish a first novel when aged 60 or over. The book is a revised version of one he wrote in the 1950s, and this too might lead to misgivings about its eligibility. The award, developing the idea of the McKitterick prize for first novels by authors over 40, was donated by an anonymous philanthropist Englishman living in Spain, and is worth £2,000. Mark Le Fanu, general secretary of the Society of Authors, is reassuring about Pinter's chances: "As long as he is 60 by 31 December, and the book is published in 1990, it qualifies."

Blackboard hero

Nelson Mandela is about to find his way on to the British school curriculum, as someone who has "helped the world". He will take his place alongside Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Bob Geldof and Marie Curie in a series of textbooks published by Ebury. The book series certain to sell well to those local authorities that delight in naming streets after Mandela, but will enjoy less popularity among Tory authorities. Tory MP John Carlisle says: "Such books are very dangerous. It will make Mandela a cult figure. It ignores his past when he was engaged in terrorist activities." Carlisle points out that the ANC has not renounced the use of violence, and will ask John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, to prevent use of the book in British schools.

The author, Benjamin Pogrund, is a former deputy editor of the *Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail* and a personal friend of Mandela. He has just completed a biography of the late Robert Sobukwe, leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress — the all-black rival to the ANC — which throws light on Mandela's prison years. "In the 1960s they sat next to each other sewing mailbags," says Pogrund. Another veteran, told him of a heated argument between the two men over the greatest writer in English literature. One favoured George Bernard Shaw, the other Shakespeare. Unfortunately, the prisoner could not remember who supported whom — though they agreed that the dispute was even more intractable than the problems besetting South Africa.



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THE FUTURE OF TRIDENT

Britain and the United States are staring at real differences over the future of Britain's nuclear deterrent. In the bargaining which characterizes the late phases of arms reduction talks, the Soviets have raised the stakes on the British Trident missiles. The future of Britain's deterrent rests on the good will of the American President in continuing to defy Soviet pressure.

A small nuclear deterrent is only worth having if the weapon can be kept up to date in its entirety. Credibility depends on modernization stretching into the future as long as any conceivable threat might last. The Start negotiations on strategic weapons are bilateral between the United States and the Soviet Union. Until now, the British deterrent has been excluded from the "non-circumvention" clauses of missile treaties, in which the signatories abjure indirect methods of evading the treaty limits.

The Soviet Union has long wished to see the British and French nuclear deterrents included in these talks. The Trident warheads to be figured only as a fraction of the totals. But at the heart of the talks now under way is a discussion of a "Start 2" treaty. If that were to bring strategic warhead numbers down on each side to 3,000 to 4,000, up to a thousand Trident warheads begins to look like more than a fraction.

Hence the sudden worries over Soviet negotiators asking for an American commitment that there would be no American replacement to Britain for the Trident D5. Such a commitment would effectively abolish the British deterrent. Its entire defensive power would vanish from the moment it was known that the new weapon was the last of the line.

The official interpretation that these are endgame ploys by seasoned Soviet players may be correct. If satisfactory compromises are found on German reunification, Moscow may relax. But if the specific difficulty over the British Trident increases — as it must if strategic arsenals go on shrinking — Britain is

faced with two choices, neither of them attractive.

For the British and French governments to maintain any degree of independence over their most powerful weapon, they require to be either technically self-sufficient (the French choice) or safely excluded from superpower missile trading (the Anglo-American option). The agreement first codified for Polaris in 1958, by which America provides Britain with technology for a deterrent which Washington does not completely control, is still the ultimate symbol of the much-derided special relationship.

At some stage some concessions will have to be made — perhaps a greater degree of transparency in the Anglo-American arrangement. But for Britain any deal must stop short of the Soviet intention to break the continuity of weapon supply. Close monitoring by London of the fine print of these negotiations is plainly more urgent than ever, for each new development may present opportunities to protect the key to British national security.

The alternative is for the British Government to attempt to take a full part in the strategic missile negotiations themselves. That cannot be done without the Trident warheads being counted in the arithmetic of reduction. The pressures to reduce Britain's deterrent beyond usefulness would then be massive. Dependence on American technology would work against, rather than for, British interests.

The only way of avoiding American pressure of that kind would be for Britain to go down the French route, to convert to complete self-sufficiency in nuclear technology. This would be massively expensive. Besides, such "junior" deterrents may in the future be vulnerable to space weapons technology, in which a country such as Britain cannot possibly partake. The need for a separate British deterrent may one day be questioned. Until then, the Trident insurance policy depends on the backing of President Bush. He must simply refuse to countenance the Soviet demand.

MR ATKINS' TRIAL BALLOON

The public's attitude towards drinking and driving has changed significantly over the past decade. People have learnt to be careful. Many lives have been saved, many families not left ruined, as a result. Could even more now be saved by a further shift?

The minister for roads and traffic, Mr Robert Atkins, appears to think so. Without revealing his own preferences, he is floating the proposition that the time has come for even tighter restrictions, especially ones targeted at groups such as young and newly-qualified drivers who are either among the most reckless or the least experienced. He is moving in the right direction, but he should proceed with some care before starting the legislative engine.

The popularity of low alcohol beer, the relatively new social acceptability of "No thanks, I'm driving" and a volume of anecdotal evidence all suggest that the Government's effort at mass education in the last few years has resulted in a beneficial change of behaviour. True, the legislative introduction of road-side breathalyzer testing and of strict penalties for being caught was a necessary condition to make these changes in attitude take place, but it was not a sufficient condition. Mass advertising, including annual police campaigns at Christmas and the new year, have made a crucial contribution in bringing home the personal responsibility of every motorist. The fear of losing a driving licence is one sort of deterrent, but the fear of maiming or killing is what matters most.

As a result the present law on drink-driving now corresponds to what most people think is right and fair, and they are probably prepared to be persuaded in favour of even lower breathalyzer limits if the argument is good enough. Among those who most need to be persuaded, however, are the young drivers who are the subject of Mr Atkins' thinking. Of all sections of the population, they are the most likely to harbour ambivalent or negative feelings towards those who would have to enforce tougher controls, the police.

The police are wary of laws which are not supported by a moral consensus, for that can

bring them into angry conflict with the ordinary citizen in a way which does nothing for their public relations. When a pattern of behaviour is newly criminalized by changes in the law, it is important that it should also be "criminalized" in terms of public attitude. The options being considered by the Department of Transport include making it an absolute criminal offence, backed by severe penalties, for young or newly-qualified drivers to drive with anything but a zero blood-alcohol level. This would be going too far. Alcohol fades from the bloodstream at varying rates, and may take until some time the next day to disappear completely. However law-abiding he wanted to be, the individual concerned would have no way of knowing whether he was fit to drive for many hours after the obvious effects had vanished.

Such a draconian imposition would be resented as unfair, and the consensus the law requires would be missing. The present law has focused on stigmatizing the driver who drives immediately after the drink. The connection would be severed if the individual who drinks modestly at lunchtime was expected to abstain from driving until the following morning. If there is to be a lower limit for sections of the driving population at risk, it should not be so low as to lead to complete uncertainty in the mind of the potential culprit.

To distinguish those to whom such new restrictions might apply, it is further suggested that young or newly-qualified drivers might be obliged to carry a sign, similar to an "L" sign, perhaps showing a "P" for probationary. This works well enough in Northern Ireland, where the letter used is "R" for restricted, and most people who first come across the practice there find it entirely sensible. Mainland Britain should borrow it on its own merits, along with associated speed restrictions. A lower limit on blood alcohol would make sense as part of a broader package of laws applying to probationary drivers, and would be more likely to gain the public support they would need.

NOT JUST ABOUT MAPS

Geography, says the dictionary, is "the study of the natural features of the earth's surface... and man's response to them." The dictionary speaks true. Geography embraces every fact on earth: every aspect of the composition, occupation and history of the planet. It is the monitor of our abuse of our environment and our guide to its preservation. As such, geography knows no intellectual boundaries. It deserves to sit at the centre of any liberal education.

School geography has none the less recently had to fight its way back from being a mere option to being one of the foundation subjects in the Government's National Curriculum and is still far from being one of the "core" subjects. While the grandees of English, science and mathematics sit luxuriating above the salt, mathematics still luxuriating left to fight it out with history as an option for teaching time, below even such peripherals as French and gym. Now, geography will at least become compulsory. But its lowly status is an educational outrage, a comment on the domination of teaching in Britain by the universities and their medieval academic priorities.

Yesterday, the Government's working party on geography began what could be a long on geography began what could be a long rearguard action. The new, flexible list of guidelines for teachers of children at ages 7, 11, 14 and 16 shows that geography's small band of 14 and 16 shows that geography's small band of the guerrillas has bravely captured much of the "green" territory now so fashionably among school children — and thus being coveted by the conservatives for "pure" science. In future, the seven-year-olds will be expected to know about the weather, about their neighbourhood, about travel and land use. By 14, they should know about the configuration of the landscape, its

impact on population, industry and transport, about the food chain and species survival. By 16, pupils will have strayed more confidently into soil science, economic history and the regulation of the environment. They should be able to recognize the world about them and understand the natural and human forces which shape and change it.

Yet these are no more than spoils from the outer bailey of the "core" curriculum. Geography should be encouraged to seize the central fortress, ejecting both pure science and that grossly over-promoted intellectual exercise called mathematics. Geography should stand alone on the scientific pedestal, joined only with its one educational equal, the study of the human spirit in English language and literature. Geography is queen of the sciences, parent to chemistry, geology, physics and biology, parent also to history and economics. Without a clear grounding in the known characteristics of the earth, the physical sciences are mere game-playing, the social sciences mere ideology.

The education secretary, Mr John MacGregor, said yesterday that geography was vital for pupils to gain "an informed appreciation of the world in which they are growing up and in which they will live and work as adults." Nobody would quarrel with that. But why does a government so commendably interventionist in matters curricular not put its words into action? Why does it traipse along behind the academic conservatives? If Mrs Thatcher's "full repairing lease" on the earth is to be honoured, British children must be taught how to do it themselves. Geography should be declared a core.

An officer class and the police

From the Secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales

Sir, The debate on policing has recently included much criticism of police management, often coupled with suggestions that the injection of a direct-entry officer class into the police service would be beneficial. A recent suggestion was that surplus redundant Army officers could be drafted in to help. It is difficult to determine from whence these suggestions have come. Certainly they do not emanate from any source that has seriously studied modern policing, nationally and internationally, or has studied police and military history in any depth. Incidentally, I would venture to suggest that the failure of military training to cope with the problems at Peterloo, 170 years ago, was a major factor leading to the establishment of the British police system.

The training of police and the training of the military are entirely different in approach. The military concept gives little or no authority to lower ranks and is required to inculcate obedience to orders. In the police service the lower ranks work mainly alone, and with a great deal of discretion. It is extremely difficult to train officers to respond to the public on an individual basis with tact, discretion and understanding, but that is exactly what police training does. Our senior officers need to understand the independence of the constable and his relationship with the public. This is best learnt by personal experience.

Conversely, military training emphasises team spirit, aggression, loyalty to the regiment above all and determination to achieve their aim at all costs. That is no doubt entirely right and proper for the military role, but we query whether it would assist in providing a police service of a kind that the public expects.

We have for many years recruited ex-military personnel in some numbers. Many have made good policemen and some have justifiably gained advancement, but only after re-training into a new civilian environment and truly learning their craft. What we are growing tired of waiting for is any reasoned case that an officer class in the police would actually bring improvement.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR HEWITT, Secretary,
The Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales,
67a Reading Road,
Pangbourne,
Berkshire,
June 5

Back pain practice

From the Secretary of the General Council and Register of Osteopaths

Sir, We welcome the recent report by the Medical Research Council which concluded that chiropractic treatment almost certainly confers worthwhile long-term benefit for many patients with low back pain in comparison with hospital out-patient management (report, June 1, later editions).

It shows that manipulative therapy is effective in the treatment of certain types of back pain and it confirms previous studies, done mainly in the United States, on the advantages of both chiropractic and osteopathic treatment.

Registered osteopaths would love to see osteopathic and chiropractic treatment available to patients on the NHS in the future, but they realise that such a step is not feasible at present. There are only some 1,400 osteopaths and some 400 chiropractors in this country who have completed a longer full-time course of training; there are not enough of them as yet to provide a viable service.

The situation is not helped by the right under law of anyone to call himself or herself an osteopath or a chiropractor, regardless of training or the lack of it. Because of this, we welcome the initiative of the King's Fund in setting up a working party to examine the mechanics of statutory regulation for osteopaths.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BLAKER, Secretary,
The General Council and Register of Osteopaths,
56 London Street,
Reading,
Berkshire,
June 1.

Museum's future

From the President of Cornell University

Sir, I enter the debate on the future funding of the Natural History Museum with some reluctance, but with the hope that the view of a distant observer, who values the work of the museum, may add some perspective.

Major museums, like major universities, have a twofold function: instruction and research. The NHM's record in the former has been undiminished: for far too long its displays were dated, crowded and unappealing to the non-professional. To its credit, the museum has recently made significant improvements in exhibition style, though sometimes leaving something to be desired in substance.

In contrast, the museum's work in research has been superb — though, by its very nature, it elicits few headlines. But such taxonomic work, unheralded as it is, provides the crucial foundation for all biological knowledge. For that reason, basic taxonomic re-

Judgment, decades after Nuremberg

From Mr Raphael Attar

Sir, Your editorial, "Forty years too late" (June 4), does not judge the overriding issue involved, which is one of principle.

First, you consider the War Crimes Bill as part of the "fight against anti-Semitism", and conclude that it will not deter those "who still commit murder and sacrifice against Jews".

Certainly the Nazis murdered millions of Jews, but surely the issue at stake should not be the race or religion of the victims but the crimes and those who committed them. To equate the issue with anti-Semitism merely debases it to the "motive" for the crime, but does nothing to address the real issue of whether those guilty of murder should be brought to justice.

Second, while anything and everything may be said about the Nuremberg trials, that again is not the issue here. By attempting to portray the Bill as a mere extension of these trials, so as to "correct sins of omission of post-war Allied policy", you again fudge the real issue.

You then go on to consider the age of the alleged criminals, and the likelihood that, if convicted, they would not serve substantial sentences. This may well be so, but is that a valid or just reason to allow a criminal to continue enjoying the freedom he has had for over 40 years?

You rightly emphasize the retrospective nature of the Bill, on the basis that those who committed these crimes were not then British citizens and could not have been justly tried at that time. Yet you feel able to conclude that the Bill is 40 years too late. If one were to follow this line of argument, the Bill, to be enforceable, needed to have been enacted before the Second World War.

However, it seems to me that you have ignored the basic fact that murder is murder, in any language, in any country, for any motive, no matter who committed it or who the victim is, and no amount of time can ever change this. Let the courts decide.

Yours faithfully,
RAPHAEL ATTAR,
60 Wolsey Road, Moor Park,
Northwood, Middlesex,
June 5.

Countryside access

From Mr William de Salis

Sir, Marion Shoard ("Give us back the freedom to roam where we please", May 26) fails to address the balance between supply and demand. On the supply side, a Country Landowners Association survey showed that 25 per cent of footpaths were unused and that 44 per cent were only occasionally used.

On the demand side, if local authorities have been slow to use their powers to enter into access agreements, this is evidence of the lack of perceived demand from the community to make an additional recreational resource available.

In trying to encourage local authorities to provide recreational facilities for the ever-growing number of visitors to the countryside, the CLA has advanced proposals for environmental land management services — essentially contracts between landowners and consumers for the provision of the environmental, including recreational, facilities which are wanted by a mobile and largely urban public. Supply and demand can be

Credibility gap

From the Reverend David B. Bubbers

Sir, Your supercilious comment concerning Mr Gummer's beefburger (leader, June 1) provokes me to rise to his defence.

As one of the most articulate ministers, he has certainly succeeded in convincing me that I can continue to enjoy British beef. What more can he reasonably be expected to say or do to end the media obsession with BSE?

The offering of a bite from a beefburger to his daughter is neither silly nor a gaffe. It was a delightfully common touch that gave extra credibility to all he had been saying on radio and television. It came over even better when she appeared to refuse — but this, I gather, was because it was too hot.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BUBBERS,
2 Earlsmead Court,
13 Granville Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
June 1.

search requires long-term public support.

Without it, the treasures represented by the museum collections will be little value. Without it, as the museum itself has already demonstrated, effective public educational exhibitions cannot be mounted, since they require close co-operation between the design professionals and taxonomists. Without it, even the six strategic priority areas chosen by the director become exercises in confusion.

Does all this mean that no responsible government can ever impose a budget reduction on the museum? Of course not, though whether national priorities are best served by a reduction of 100 or 50 or 25 pence clearly involves judgments other than financial.

What it does argue, however, is that responsible stewardship of these national collections requires, not the imposition of a "corporate

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to: **Letters to the Editor**, (071) 782 5046.

From Mrs Charles Odescalchi

Sir, The War Crimes Bill, passed by the Commons and rejected by the Lords, must necessarily produce a range of opinions not at all reflective of party lines. The function of the Upper House, in delaying so controversial a measure until everyone has had an opportunity to think, amply justifies the existence of that House. Could not the Government deal in an uncontroversial manner with the whole question, by holding a referendum?

Yours faithfully,
ELENI ODESALCHI,
Flat 12,
Park View, Abbey Road,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

From Mr Ralph Koorlander

Sir, Had more than six million British and Commonwealth civilians been systematically butchered by an occupying power during the last war, would our noble Lords currently be voicing such constitutional qualms or wringing their hands at the unreliability of the judicial process?

Yours faithfully,
RALPH KOORLANDER,
11 Haslemere Avenue, NW4.

From the Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Sir, If the perpetrators of the Moors murders had not been apprehended all those years ago, but there were now *prima facie* evidence that they were living comfortably in provincial England, would there be the same sort of sanctimonious speeches in the House of Lords as greeted the proposal that mass murderers, on an even greater scale, should now be brought to justice?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SUPPLE,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge.

From Mr B. H. Bateman

Sir, Thank heaven for the House of Lords, simply because they are mostly non-politicians. The War Crimes Bill shames this country. As someone who took part in the bombing of Germany, may I say we took revenge enough to close the book for ever.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. BATEMAN,
34 St Martin's Approach,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

matched by these means, rather than by relying on a network of footpaths which does not appear to meet modern requirements.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DE SALIS (Chief Economics and Land Use Adviser),
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1

From Mr John Howe

Sir, Can a lecturer in central London really have such an affinity with the countryside that she is in a position to tell us, land-using farmers, how to manage the countryside?

Ms Shoard seems to be in a muddle. Why can she countenance exclusivity in a back garden whilst saying that I should open up my factory floor to all and sundry? Would ICL, for instance, allow the public unlimited access to their plants?

Just because my factory floor has no walls and is open to the view of everyone, why should that give them the right to come inside?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOWE,
Sheffield Park Farm,
Uckfield, Sussex.

Naming the train

From Ms Peggy Dyche

Sir, May I put forward Vanguard as the name for the cross-channel train service. It suggests being in the forefront of a movement. It also has the connotation of a guard's van, which should appeal to the safety-conscious as well as to railway buffs.

Yours faithfully,
PEGGY DYCHE,
25 Blakes Avenue,
New Malden, Surrey.

From Mr Roy Smith

Sir, I suggest Sagittarius. A name with classical roots avoids nationalist hurdles. The meaning is well known, not only to the astrologically inclined. And to railway buffs and the older generation on both sides of the channel there is instant connection with the Golden Arrow/Flèche d'Or.

Yours faithfully,
ROY SMITH,
Ekely, Dormans Park,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

plan", but the development of a collegiate strategy, in which scientific curators are given an opportunity, together with the director and trustees, to provide a professional response within the context of the realities of government funding.

It was a sad day for British science to read of strikes by professional scientific museum staff (report, April 25). It was equally sad to read the "corporate plan" which led to this action. And it is both sad and embarrassing to have the author of the museum plan describe it as a strategy which has been "re-defined to meet the needs of audiences and in doing so enhance its position as the leading natural history museum in the world".

However real the financial constraints, there must be a better way than this.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
FRANK RHODES, President,
Cornell University,
603 Cayuga Heights Road,
Ithaca, NY 14850, USA,
June 5.

Suitable settings for sacred music

From Mr Edward Barrett

Sir, Bernard Levin's entertaining article ("If they are not the tunes of the Devil, let's hear them", May 28) suggests that it was a whim of the Catholic hierarchy in France to impose restrictions on concerts in churches. The instruction came, however, from the Vatican, addressed to the Catholic Church as a whole.

Briefly, concerts of non-sacred music are not permitted in churches, but the same document authorizes the performance of liturgical and other sacred music at concerts in churches, when no admission charge should be made.

The idea was to "keep alive the treasures of church music which must not be lost". In those places where, over the last 20 years, the liturgy itself has become so soulless as to exclude the "treasure of inestimable value" which the Second Vatican Council ordered to be preserved and fostered, it is considered that such music should resound in concerts rather than not at all.

The Association for Latin Liturgy, founded in 1969 to advance the use of Latin in the revised rites of the Catholic Church, has been assured by the Vatican that the instruction should not be interpreted as meaning that traditional Latin music should not be used in its correct place in the Mass and Divine Office in any churches where the will and the necessary competence exist.

In practice, no worthy liturgical music from the past need be denied a place in the revised Catholic liturgy. The greater churches of London and elsewhere maintain an excellent standard, including the whole repertoire of plainsong and the polyphony of Byrd, Lassus, Palestrina and Victoria, as well the Haydn and Mozart masses disdained by the purists.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BARRETT,
20 Cambridge Road, SW11,
May 30.

Glyndebourne 'Flute'

From Mr A. T. Shadforth

Sir, Last week I saw *The Magic Flute* at Glyndebourne (review, May 23). It was the second night of the season. I have been on a slow burn ever since.

I can understand the search for new ways to express the manifold qualities of Mozart's operas. I can also recognise the wonderful musicianship, evidenced in both solo and — so characteristically — ensemble singing on the night. That joy and source of admiration remained intact. But I consider the production was a gross disaster.

Professional criticism has expressed this view more cogently than I am able. But I dare to feel I speak for a vast silent majority of Glyndebourne members. All around me on the night the feeling was the same.

The point can be put quite simply. I think the festival's artistic management has a duty to Mozart and to the festival's patrons. It has failed in this duty on both counts. It has shown itself to be self-serving; there can be no greater calamity.

The festival's management is ultimately responsible for this wretched state of affairs. I think it has been found wanting.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY T. SHADFORTH
Woodlands, Brindston,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire
May 31

From Mr Roger Simpson

Sir, Your review does less than justice to the new production. In my opinion, as a member of the audience on the second night, the performance was most theatrical and magical. Thank goodness for its inventive innovation, for Peter Sellers, but above all for Glyndebourne, which over the years has shown that it knows how to keep opera vibrantly alive.

Thank goodness also that the production will go on tour this autumn and that there is a planned recording by BBC television, so that this splendid *Magic Flute* may be seen by a wider and less privileged audience.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SIMPSON,
Chartfield, Park View Road,
Woldingham, Surrey.

Where charity begins

From Mr S. J. Osmond

Sir, Mr Paul Messing's suggestion (June 5) that charity sponsorship should be related to more useful activity than table tennis marathons has been applied for many years in Hong Kong.

As an alternative to sponsored walks, which raise millions of pounds, there are sponsored clean-ups where groups of volunteers, sponsored by friends and businesses, spring-clean the beaches and beauty spots — at the same time as raising money and publicising the need for litter control.

Yours faithfully,
SAM OSMOND,
40 Stanhope Gardens, SW7

Once bitten?

From Mr K. W. Broad

Sir, Surely it is news only when man bites bittern (letter, June 4). Yours truly,
KEN BROAD,
Manor Court,
Church Aston,
Newport, Shropshire.

HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

A singer stopped in his tracks

Michael Jackson, the 31-year-old eccentric singer who, despite selling more than 40 million copies of a single album, is almost as well known for the plastic surgery he has employed to redesign his face, as his voice, suffered chest pain this week severe enough to warrant his admission to hospital. He and his doctors, were concerned lest he had suffered a coronary thrombosis. The causes of chest pain are legion and in Mr Jackson's case the list must be even longer than usual, and the diagnosis trickier, for as well as being a fitness fanatic who is accustomed to spending hours a day torturing his body with violent physical exercise he is also a food faddist, who it is rumoured, lives for months on vegetables and brown rice.

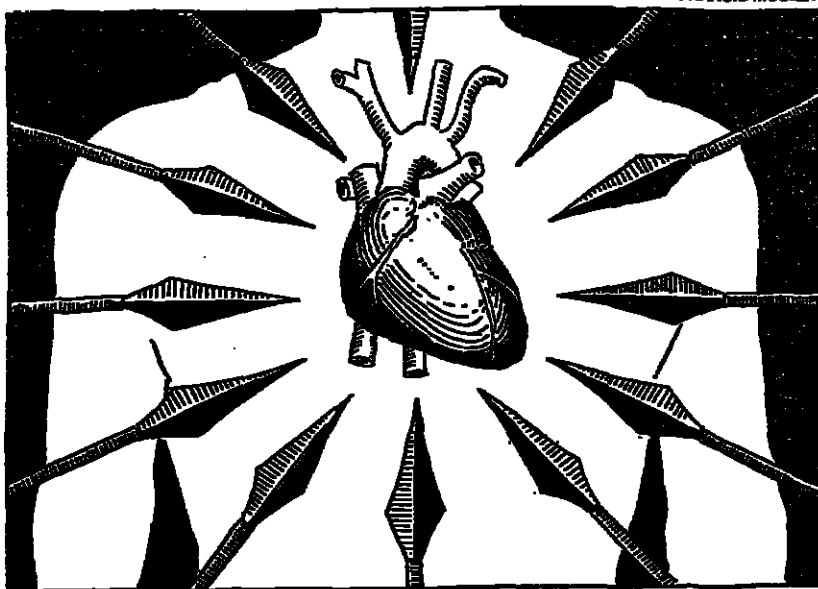
Reports that a coronary had been diagnosed as a result of a single blood test which showed that the level of a cardiac enzyme was higher than usual are unlikely to be accurate. The diagnosis of a coronary thrombosis by plotting the blood levels of three enzymes, creatine phosphokinase, CPK, the aspartate amino transferase, AST, and hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase, HBD, which rise at different but predictable times over the three days following a heart attack, is always difficult; these tests are usually used only to provide confirmation of the evidence already raised from suspicious

changes in the ECG, the heart racing.

In Mr Jackson's case, because of his enthusiasm for punishing exercise, the enzyme changes would be even more difficult to interpret than usual. For just as the muscle damage following a coronary thrombosis causes changes in the three enzymes, so does limb muscle damage caused by violent physical exertion. When, for instance, the enzymes of a hospital scientist were checked after a recent marathon they were found to be more than twice the upper limit of normal. The fraction of the first enzyme to rise, CPK, which can be related to heart muscle damage, can be separated from that due to damaged limb muscle but it is unlikely that a single reading would be considered diagnostic.

Slimming, too, might have confused the diagnosis. Mr Jackson is reported to be conscious of every superfluous ounce. Excessive dieting when accompanied by a low protein intake causes muscle loss from the heart which can result in an irregular heart rate which might well give rise to either chest pain, or the palpitations which patients often describe as chest discomfort.

Heart attacks in the early thirties are rare, but when they do occur it is usually because the patient belongs to the 1 per cent of the population who have inherited a tendency to hyperlipidaemia, either a high blood cholesterol,



FRANCIS MOSLEY

or more rarely an increase in one of the other blood fats. These patients will need medical treatment with lipid-lowering drugs as well as dietary advice. Health education campaigns designed to reduce the incidence of heart disease by altering the lifestyles of whole communities by discouraging smoking, sloth and an over-fondness for saturated fats, are directed at the other 99 per cent of the population. There is evidence from those countries which have concentrated on health education that the reduction in heart disease which has followed the campaigns is in part due to a change in habits as well as to the natural ebb and flow of any disease. In a trial in Finland in the area which was subjected to a very intrusive campaign, the heart attack rate fell by 24 per cent, whereas in the control area only by 12. Other trials suggest that improving diet by choosing foods rich in the anti-oxidants, vitamin C, vitamin E and beta-carotene may also reduce the chance of heart disease.

A danger on the doorstep

Although William Grundy of Ambridge is still at his primary school, he is already following in the footsteps of those other Archers characters, his father Eddie, grandfather Joe, and his wicked uncle, a recidivist who makes only occasional appearances in the town. William's crime was to steal the milk off the doorsteps. He is not alone in doing this but unlike the magpies and jackdaws who have been taking the milk-bottle tops in parts of rural Northumberland he did take the whole bottle and not leave a residue of milk behind contaminated by *Campylobacter jejuni*, which is the most common reported cause of acute diarrhoea in the United Kingdom. Four doctors from the Gateshead and Newcastle area who have been studying

outbreaks of campylobacter enteritis in the Gateshead area have been publishing their findings in *The Lancet*. Most of the 58 cases in one outbreak of diarrhoea could remember drinking cold milk which had already been attacked by birds. This small epidemic occurred over a three-month period on a housing development near to open countryside and many of the residents of the housing estate had seen magpies or jackdaws pecking at the milk tops. Nine milk bottles, four with their seals

intact and five whose caps had been pecked, were examined at the local public health laboratory; no undamaged bottle showed evidence of campylobacter but two of those ravaged by the birds were infected.

Campylobacter has been isolated from the beaks of jackdaws, but the doctors are still unable to explain on medical or ornithological grounds why the outbreak was so localized, and why it was confined to a comparatively short period between May and July.

Full plates for starters, please

There is increasing evidence that the traditional, but unpopular, advice to toddlers that if they want to grow up as big and strong as their parents they should eat up their food is scientifically sound. Data is now being presented which confirms nanny's contention that a child's eating pattern not only in the first few years of life, but also in the first few months, helps to determine its physical prowess as well as its intellectual ability in later life. The exact relationship is hard to prove because the effects of malnutrition are so often confounded by other aspects of poverty. Most studies have concentrated on the influence of long-term malnutrition, but in a recent letter to *The Lancet*, four Portuguese paediatricians compared the later development of 19 babies who suffered severe temporary weight loss when under the age of six months with a control group matched for home background and class. The study showed that even a short period of malnutrition in early infancy, despite in these cases being followed by a rapid recovery, carried with it the risk that at school age the previously affected children would be smaller and less intelligent than the control group, and not as well-developed as would be expected from the study of their brothers and sisters.

Dr Alan Lucas, from the Medical

Research Council's nutrition unit at Cambridge, has also been working on the importance of early feeding. In order to separate the effect of other socio-economic factors often associated with early malnutrition, factors which would be likely to provide a lack of intellectual stimulation, he is studying the long-term influence of minor changes in the feeding formula of 1,000 premature children who were randomly assigned to different but apparently nutritionally acceptable diets currently used in established medical practice. He has already shown that even very minor changes in the formula in the first month of life can have a significant influence in the baby's physical and intellectual growth judged by the times that they pass the milestones of the first year or two of childhood. His work already supports existing, but less statistically sound, evidence derived from retrospective studies which suggested that not only is a child's physical and mental development affected by early feeding but also its later ability to withstand infection, its likelihood of developing allergic or auto-immune disease, and even its liability to have a heart-attack in middle-age. Dr Lucas stresses that development of the brain is particularly dependent on good feeding in the first two years of life in general, and the first month or two in particular.

The Cup that cheers and inebriates

Football is not a matter of life and death, the late Bill Shankly once told his critics in a moment of exasperation, "it's more important than that". The man who almost single-handedly restored Liverpool's fortunes would have been fascinated by the findings of a fellow Scot, Dr George Masterton. His research has given scientific weight to what Mr Shankly understood instinctively: that for the committed fan, the influence of a sport extends far beyond the stadium.

Dr Masterton, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, found that attempted suicides and referrals for mental illness in the area dropped significantly during, and for some time after, the past four World Cups. "The numbers were down by 15 and 20 per cent," he says. "It's not just the tournament itself, because the effect seems to last for about eight weeks afterwards. Nor is it only to do with Scotland participating, because they were knocked out in the first stages on each occasion."

"Somehow the football is a catalyst; it changes the way people behave and interact with each other. We don't know exactly how or why. It may be similar to what happens in wartime, when suicides also drop because people are distracted from their per-

Does the excitement of a big match make people nicer and more tolerant?
Liz Gill investigates

sonal problems and have something else to talk and think about. What is particularly interesting is that the rates also dropped for women, whereas when you hear all the talk about disruption of family life and football widows you might expect them to go up."

A possible explanation, he says, is that men and women spend less time with each other during big sporting events and therefore have fewer opportunities for conflict. But that would not explain the post-tournament figures. "I wonder if it makes people nicer, more tolerant towards each other," he suggests.

Dr Masterton believes his findings would not be replicated in areas where football was not part of the culture, although other sports might show similar results. "When I worked in Somerset, for instance, no one was interested

in football, but they cared passionately about cricket. And you might get the same effect with rugby in Wales."

Football can be enormously influential on a community's well-being, says John Williams, co-director of the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University. "In 1972, when Sunderland unexpectedly won the FA Cup against Leeds United, employers on Wearside said levels of production went up, because the win raised morale so much. It's also said that when West Ham won the cup a couple of years after that, there was an upward blip in the birth rate in the East End of London nine months later."

"Although football is expensive to police, the police themselves argue that it saves massive costs elsewhere in terms of social problems. Your team's success can be good for you psychologically."

There can be negative aspects as well, Mr Williams says. "Anger and unhappiness about a game can spill over into other areas of life. You hear of men attacking their wives after an argument over the television. And if you over-identify with a team you can lose your sense of yourself as an individual."

Mr Williams believes the game offers men a much-needed outlet for their emotions. "Football is an excuse to cheer, shout abuse, let off



Breaking the social rules: football gives men a much-needed outlet for emotions. "It is an excuse to cheer, shout abuse and let off steam"

steam and hug other men. Spectators do that as well as players when a goal is scored. Modern society offers men very few chances to show their feelings."

Dr John Fazey, a psychologist in the Sport Health and Physical Education Department at the University of North Wales, in Bangor, says the most important element of big sporting events is the escape they offer from other problems. "If you've had a frustrating day and you come home and spend two hours or more watching a match on television, then by the time it's finished the things that were upsetting you may have been forgotten. Over the next month we're going to have a

lot of people having a good deal of time out from their worries."

Watching the World Cup might be psychologically beneficial, but sitting slumped in front of the screen for hours is unlikely to improve physical health unless it inspires the viewer to exercise. Dr Fazey says this does happen. "Governing bodies of various sports often say they're inundated with requests after things like the Olympics, when lots of little girls suddenly want to become gymnasts. The interest, however, does tend to dissipate after a while."

John Bakling, director of the Schools' Health Education Unit at Exeter University,

believes there is a trickle-down effect from big sporting occasions. The marathon leads to the mini-marathon, which in turn leads to the village fun run. Often, though, the big event only inspires those who are already highly motivated, he says.

Alcohol and football seem inextricably linked in this country in a way, Mr Williams says, that they are not elsewhere, and this seems to apply both to spectators at the match and at home. According to Dr Masterton, alcohol-related problems, both physical and mental, soar during the World Cup: the rate is double the

average in the last week of the tournament.

Increased alcohol consumption is often accompanied by snatched meals or junk food snacks. "You can put on a fair bit of weight in a month, which can then be hard to shift," says Dr Alex Mills, senior registrar in public health medicine at the Health Education Authority. "It's better to eat something like fruit rather than crisps and to go for a walk round the block at half-time and to drink moderately."

The thrills of a sport have a physiological effect on the spectator, releasing adrenaline, pushing up the pulse rate and raising the blood pressure. Although this is harmless for

most people, it could trigger an attack in someone with a heart condition, Dr Mills says.

When Dr Masterton made a computer search of medical literature to see if anything had been done on physical health in this field, all he found was a study done in West Germany in 1974, which showed a substantial increase in the number of patients with cardiac difficulties. "And that was the year they won," he says. "I'm sure it is physiologically stressing, but I think the stress is probably related to expectations. Germany expected to do well that year. I think it's probably even worse if you have your expectations raised and then dashed by losing."

Nervy and irritable?

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BREATHING SPACE

David Gee

AS DIRECTOR of Friends of the Earth, I see health issues as a great mobilizing force. I spent about 20 years working for the TUC and trade unions trying to preserve and enhance the health of people at work—that's where my passionate interest lies. And now, with FOE of course I'm concerned with the health of the planet itself.

I try to keep as fit as possible—I lead a pretty stressful life, doing very demanding jobs and taking very seriously the care of three children and the household. To keep fit and stave off a heart attack, I run pretty frequently. Once or twice a week I swim, and every Sunday morning I get up at seven o'clock to play tennis. Every morning when I get up I make a point of doing seven minutes' exercise—partly psychological in order to get a grip on the day and relax, partly as a means of keeping fit. Thirty press-ups and 15 knee-bends and a variety of other exercises. If I'm feeling depressed or out of control of life I tend not to want to do the exercises, so it becomes a little psychological hook to get hold of to drag you back into tackling the world in the way it should be tackled. I tend to eat a lot and rapidly, which probably doesn't do me any good, but at 43 I'm in remarkably good health.



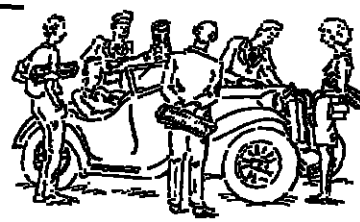
Recycling in the home is very important, but people aren't given any encouragement. I have three dustbins—one each for newspapers, bottles and aluminium cans—and every two or three weeks I pass a very good local authority collection point and dump them.

We've got four bikes at home. I used mine a lot last year during the rail strike. The fume levels were appallingly high. It was most unpleasant—the smell and realization that you were breathing in low-level carcinogens from the diesel fumes.

I've always been an optimist, and I remain so even though the problems we face are large. Probably there is only this decade left in which to take the right steps to save the world.

INTERVIEW BY PAMELA NOWICKA

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FICTION

Old furies behind the fine façade

Victoria Glendinning on the new collection of short stories from a veteran pro of love, only bulwark between life and death

THESE STORIES are terrific. It's as if Edna O'Brien were an actress who had been one of the great ingenues of the age, playing Juliet and Desdemona (with the odd ambitious stab at Cleopatra), until she could go through the mazy motions of despairing love in her sleep. And then the actress takes a leap in the dark, and discovers that she has the authority and the resources to do something different.

The 12 stories are still inimitably O'Brien, in their lyric appreciation of handsome men and home-made cakes, in their now stylized Irish lilt, intensities, and spelling mistakes. Her throw-away details are as spot-on as ever, as when she instantly characterises a doting childless couple by remarking that they "make their own butterscotch". Her sometimes uneasy combination of pinched genteelisms with wild, inspired phrases and images makes new and complete sense in this collection, in which behind the prim and proper façades of houses — and of people — chaotic impulses and furies suddenly erupt.

The narrator in "Epitaph" sees everyone as holding on, containing their violent emotions just. "If their skins were peeled off, or their chest bones opened, they would literally burst apart." Jealousy, indecency, hysteria, dementia, howlings, and weepings break out in these stories, leaving shockwaves. In "Of in the Still Night", a devout woman in an Irish village, who does the church flowers for the reception of a visiting preacher, bursts apart in obscene madness, raped by a lily, exposing grey pubic hair to the terrified priest.

O'Brien is still writing about love — the "bulwark between life and death" — but love of various kinds, and not always named. The ageing Irish farm woman in "Brother" — which is funny as well

as acute — monologues mutteringly about the years she has spent "making his porridge and emptying his washbasin" and rubbing liniment into his back "down to the pudgy little bits, the lupins", which has led to more intimate services. Now the brother plans to supplant her with a wife. The bitter sister has plans. "Roll on nuptials. Daughter of death is she."

The archetypal O'Brien heroine, obsessively mulling over a lover who let her down, is still here. "When you left, I marched and marched about my room, uncontrollable." But the emphasis

meets by chance the man she loves and who left her. It is she who refuses to resume the affair, knowing it cannot last, "no longer afraid of her emotions, no longer raving about boys and bougainvillea, but reaching right down to the root of the love or the lingering love that was there, hauling him out of himself, shedding the lies and the little pretences, forsaking the wobbly balustrade that had been theirs". This is good writing, and good thinking.

In "Storm", the most accomplished story in the book, lovers are seen from the outside, with "an awful clarity" and something worse than irritation, by an older woman. She is on holiday in the Mediterranean with her son and his adoring girlfriend. "She sees her age and her separateness much more painfully here than when at home." Like other women in this collection, she feels she will "erupt and erupt", and, like the weather, she breaks. This is a very honest story, and includes a virtuoso evocation of the mother's nervous anxiety, guaranteed to produce extreme vicariously maternal agitation in any reader.

It's a measure of the confidence and quality of this collection that one notices the relationship of the title story with Joyce's *The Dead* without a critical qualm. "Lantern Slides" is about "a smart gathering in a select part of the outskirts of Dublin — full, as Mr. Conroy said, of nobles". Which means, of course, that the party was none of those things. But behind the pathetic boasts and subterfuges "you could feel the longing in the room, you could touch it", and defying Joyce, O'Brien ends not elegiacally but with a bursting-out of life and hope. (It's not as good, but it's good.) The deserted wife for whom the party is given announces that "being of a certain age" is not the worst time in a woman's life. O'Brien in her prime proves the point.

LANTERN SLIDES
By Edna O'Brien
Weidenfeld & Nicolson £12

has changed. The woman alone in a seaside hotel in "Another Time" lets go of the past as of some awful affliction, and what concerns the woman in "Epitaph" by the end of the story, is how to escape the prison of her love. She can see that "ours was a small tragedy", compared with the real tragedies of the world. "It is not that one cannot bear the parting; it is really that one cannot bear the meeting, because of so many constraints."

This question of how to part "decently" is the subject of "Long Distance", where the heroine



GLYN BOYD HART

Flies in the ointment

Michael Wright

SOLOMON GURSKY WAS HERE
By Mordchai Richler
Chato & Windus, £13.95



scale, with a huge *dramatis personae* ranging from a tribe of Inuit to Sir Peter Hall and Ken Tynan (in a non-speaking role), the interweaving of fact and fiction is so beguiling that I was forced to look

up the Gurks in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, just in case. At times, Richler's historical research threatens to overload the system; old Ephraim Gursky wanders through Victorian London "mindful of dippers and gonopods, moving on smartly whenever he espied a peeler"; this, from a narrative voice not prone to slang, is a trifle showy.

The robust Jewishness of the main characters is at times grotesquely funny, at others funnily grotesque, as Richler pushes the stereotypes firmly in the direction of burlesque. Meanwhile the Inuit sections provide scope for some buttock-clenching gore: "He found him... chewing greedily on a raw seal's eye, sucking the goodness out of it." Ugh. The gargoyles may be hideous, but the architecture is sound. There is delicious subtlety in the way that symbols and leitmotifs recur and reoccur. This is a very fine work: a treasure-house of detail that demands concentration.

PERFECTLY understandable mistake. Because the Japanese habitually put surnames first, Amos Kingsley, distinguished writer of *My Ass and I: a Journey by Donkey in the Highlands, Fairies Fair Isle: a Pattern of History*, and a positively anorexic volume of undergraduate verse, finds himself elected to the presidency of the World Association of Authors in mistake for his, well, slightly more distinguished namesake. With unexpected greatness thrust upon him, Amos discovers a hitherto unsuspected genius for the splitting of diplomatic hairs, papering over apparently vast ideological divides with "formulas" so vaguely worded as to offend no one and mean nothing.

Amos's particular misfortune, though, is to have to chair the most controversial world congress the WAA has ever held. The host nation, Malindi, has a strikingly poor record for failing dissident writers, and Amos is already somewhat *mal vu* in the international literary community, for having contributed a glowing preface to a *Festschrift* celebration of a writer of whom he has read not a syllable, but who turns out to have

The garbage of lit. activists

Brian Morton

VISITING CARDS
By Francis King
Constable, £11.95



been an exuberantly fellow-travelling Nazi. To make matters worse, his wife Laura is an unfaithful scold so shrewish that even Amis, Kingsley might have hesitated.

Where most men settle for one *anima* figure, Amos has acquired two. While Laura waltzes off with a local British Council man, the Swedish delegate Margaretta Svenson greedily eyes the presidency. Margaretta quickly recognizes that the lousy Malindian record on freedom of expression — coupled with the present incum-

ber's spinelessness (read: diplomacy) — is her trump card. Francis King was himself an unusually effective President of International PEN, and he understands the politics of junketing particularly well. Where the best of his recent novels — *Acts of Darkness* and *The Woman Who Was God* — have disguised their humour in a black exterior, *Visiting Cards* is a confection with a tooth-breaking hard centre. King sees literary politics, with the Rushdie affair an inescapable presence, as a kind of

privileged shadow fight, out of touch with everyday realities. The book's most telling moment comes when a WAA delegation visits the imprisoned writers in Malindi's Lubjanka, and pile in with an earnest set of questions about food, accommodation, toilet facilities. These, though, are the obsessions of privileged people on a freebie, not of prisoners of conscience. All they are concerned about is the denial of writing material. King pushes home the point by having Amos, driven to self-abuse by the disappearance of his wife, and by a rather non-specific lust for the tiny Japanese versifier who is his sponsor, mistake her scroll-poem (which is in itself a rare evidence of actual literary activity) for a Kleenex. Satirically, King is working a long exposed seam, with Bradbury's *Rates of Exchange*, Lodge's *Small World*, and Stoppard's *Professional Foul* all before him. What he suggests, though, in a very English euphemism of his title, is that writers and their entourage of academics and critics do very little more for a shrinking world than leave their messes on its doorstep — and all in the name of "conscience."



SATURDAY

Hush, hush, whisper who dares. On Saturday we review Thwaite on A. A. Milne

Counting Japanese sheep

Sabine Durrant

A WILD SHEEP CHASE
By Haruki Murakami
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99
LIGHT CAN BE BOTH WAVE AND PARTICLE
By Ellen Gilchrist
Faber, £12.99
JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME
By Gillian Tindall
Hutchinson, £12.95
DARKNESS FALLS
By Joyce Anne Schneider
Heinemann, £12.95

THE HERO of Haruki Murakami's *A Wild Sheep Chase* loses things. The novel opens with the funeral of his ex-girlfriend and ends with the disappearance of his new one. In the middle he contrives to mislay his wife, his home-town, his job, his cat, even his twenties. "People can generally be classified into two groups," says the black-suited secretary who controls his destiny with the cold efficiency of a telephone operator, "the mediocre realist and the mediocre dreamer. You clearly belong to the latter."

It is the dislocated world of sleep that best describes the course of the novel. The obsessive pursuit at its heart is a hunt for a white sheep with a black star on its back. The hero is in effect reduced to passing his days counting sheep, but throughout maintains his Marlowesque cool, even when the wool is being pulled over his eyes. (Murakami translates Chandler in his spare time, a hobby to which his own style bears witness.)

As you might imagine, it is no ordinary sheep. It has the ability to enter the bodies of simple mortals, and the ambition to control the world. (Genghis Khan was, apparently, a peace-loving cove until taken over by his ovine operator.) And it is no ordinary hunt. Fired by cigarettes and whisky, the hero steers through a flock of weird individuals: the Sheep Professor, the Rat, the chauffeur with the direct line to God, the girl with the cars that stop traffic. Haruki Murakami is Japan's best-selling novelist. *A Wild Sheep Chase* has already sold four million copies. One should not be surprised. Despite its quirky style and a ludicrous plot, it is compelling. Coincidence and the occasional twinge of extrasensory perception seep, too, through Ellen Gilchrist's fourth collection of short stories, *Light Can Be Both Wave and Particle*. Despite the off-putting title, this is an enchanting book. Gilchrist swings between the familiar and the shocking, the

everyday and the traumatic. She writes about ordinary happenings in out of the way places (Fayetteville, Arkansas, Jackson Mississippi), of meetings between recognizable characters from her other fiction (Rhoda and Anna for example) and strangers (a genetic scientist from China, a school-teacher from Seattle), above all of domestic routine disrupted by violence. Here bored Southern housewives cope with an armed siege; a railway journey ends with a bloody premature birth; a child's game is disrupted by a poked-out eye. It is disorienting stuff, but controlled always by Gilchrist's wry tone and gentle insight.

Gillian Tindall's *Journey of a Lifetime* is also impeccably structured, but the patterns are predictable. Each of the tales contains a departure, a soul-searching, and a final twist. For all its aspirations to Grand Tour the twists double back, and you end up not much farther on from when you started. Part of the problem with the book is the discrepancy between the hugeness of the philosophical questions troubling its characters, and the triviality of the trips that inspire them. The journeys are more to do with suntan lotion, hotel foyers, and coach parties than with alien ways and foreign vistas. The travellers are united by

the insipidity of their response to foreign cities.

The best of the stories confront the inadequacy of his reaction. "An Independent Woman", for example, concerns the visit of a dowdy career woman to a once wild schoolfriend now married to a Muslim in Lahore. The extent to which they have grown apart is neatly illustrated by their respective attitudes to sight-seeing. The guest is hungry for the dirt and colour of the old city, the hostess eager to show off the new Mall. The prose arranges the irreconcilable, bringing them together in order to spring them apart.

You would have to look hard for subtle arrangements in Joyce Anne Schneider's mystery novel, *Darkness Falls*. The badly is easily recognisable by his "square face", and his fondness for cobwebby gloom. The goodies have their goodness ascribed to them with the simplest of shorthand (Amanda listens to Aretha Franklin or Brahms on her car stereo). The plot involves a drowned girl, a psychiatrist's tapes, and all kind of complicated business involving properties and keys. Holiday reading perhaps — unless you happen to be an estate agent.

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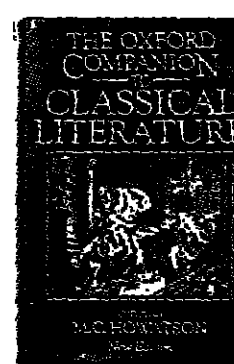
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BOOKS

Spelling it out without dirty bits

Melvyn Bragg, whose new novel includes explicit descriptions of sexual activity, considers how attitudes to sex and eroticism in literature have altered in the past 100 years

Children of my generation were conditioned to regard descriptions of sex as "dirty bits". The literature we inherited at school was safely handed down by custom and excision and ended around the First World War. We were Victorian throw-backs. In my corner of the regional outback, in which Hardy would have moved comfortably, the life reflected the work. The bedroom door closed. A look and an embrace had to take the strain. Marriage and, presumably, procreation were left stranded in impossible expectation at the end of the last chapter. Sex was a lower order, a lower organ, beneath the salt, unranked in the battalions of literature. Real English authors did not have explicit sex.

It had no proper place in our daily lives, either. The parts, the act, even the biological functions were never mentioned in my day, and the suppression bred a vigorous underground and subversive movement.

This began with ludicrously lewd "jokes", told and told again between the ages of 10 and 13: jokes which depended on sexual names from the wildest shores of caricature and predictable punch-lines (only half understood), which triggered spasms of common cackling. It moved to jock-strap innuendo in the changing rooms - again reporting an all-male experience - until finally, in late teens, some sense and experience were brought to bear on the case.

Innocence was the prize, ignorance was then the prop. Then people either continued to enjoy "the dirty bits" through pornography - which has never held any appeal for me, its exploitative sourness more than annulling any curiosity value - or they puzzled their way through the increasingly bold fiction of the 20th century. Sex came out of the bedroom like an avenger. To my generation in Britain, however, the main reaction to it continued to be anxiety.

Which was odd, for a number of reasons. In American fiction of the 1950s and 1960s (for example, take the contemporary work of the mainstream writer, John Updike), sex was a lush, densely described, vivid presence. True, there was still the distancing, even if only in jest. I remember Mary McCarthy saying she would like to meet Philip Roth - after *Portnoy's Complaint* - but "did not want to shake his hand".

Yet in homosexual novels there were explicit descriptions. In the 1980s, writers of distinction played games with pornography and "bad

taste", and sex has become commercial in the "sex-and-shopping" novels.

In this briefest headline history a generation, mine, appeared to be beached. "Dirty bits" they still somehow were, with D.H. Lawrence invoked by some to make others realize the essential importance of sexuality, and dismissed by others for what was deemed his blushing-making and tasteless clumsiness.

Lately, a new movement - in novels, comics, comedy and literature generally - seems devoted to the notion that sex is to be sniggered over or laughed about or, more important, dismissed as boring and irrelevant. In my own life I find it neither boring nor irrelevant. It was part - let me stress, part, but a marvellous part - of the most powerful experiences and times I had known. But until recently I described it, if I

described it at all, as if it were held away in a pair of tongs.

In my new novel, *A Time To Dance*, the story of an overwhelming love affair - the dazzling and dark side of such an encounter - there is very explicit writing about sex. It is not pornographic. It is not reductive. It has to do with a love affair which is obsessive and erotic and even perhaps possessed by the soul. It took some doing for this representative of that generation of Englishmen, now aged 50.

For one thing, as a lover of much of our Eng Lit I too had enjoyed the multiple metaphors for sex, and the frissons of omission. E.M. Forster's off-the-page sexuality was yeast to my imagination. The strained, crystallized, restrictive torment of Hardy's hints and Henry James's almost unbearable foreplay were strange incitements. Nabokov, of course (and others, but he most

decisively), both added to that and undermined that tradition. But he was a genius and, besides, came from another culture.

Yet *Lolita* - not so much the story as the telling, if one can separate the two - set off a small fire from which my novel grew. As did the behaviour of Nora Barnacle, James Joyce's wife. And there is little sustenance from the merely raunchy writers, such as Henry Miller, whom the arguments of the feminists marginalized.

And so the list could grow. But what was a Victorian Victorian Protestant working-class free transfer to metropolitan media middle-class novelist to do about it all? Wait, as it turned out, until the "something" turned up that mattered. The image, the line, the opportunity and the nerve.

I wrote an historical novel called *The Maid of Buttermere* a few years ago, in which the key event was the

marriage between a notorious impostor and bigamist and a beautiful young woman who had lived all her life intact in a remote valley in the Lake District. The fraudulent marriage ruined him utterly, and it threatened to ruin her.

The more I examined the facts - and there are a surprising number, the incident became a great scandal of the age - the more it seemed that both must have sensed the marriage would be a disaster. But nevertheless they went ahead with it.

My conclusion was that sexual obsession drove them into an arrangement which was the only one her background and character would allow for the satisfaction of this obsession. A love which has to be expressed and satisfied, even though destruction is an inevitable consequence, became a notion to which I wanted to return.



Passion: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor acting together, and Sue Lyon and James Mason in the film of *Lolita* (above right)



Curiously in the book I next wrote, *Rich* - the biography of Richard Burton - I found another example of an utterly compulsive love which clearly signalled destruction from the beginning. Burton's fascination for Taylor - and his involvement with her and her with him in entries too dangerous to print in the published book - echoed and reinforced what had happened in Buttermere. That is the idea of a man and a woman being out of control in a passion which, they know, will as likely lead to destruction as to any placid conclusion, and yet committing themselves to it with all their senses, perhaps wholly unable to stop themselves.

Two other sources, (with hindsight) confirmed my interest in this. One is the *Liber Amoris* of William Hazlitt, which astonished me. I had read Hazlitt at school with the most enormous pleasure, and discovered some time later that he had jeopardized - and lost - his marriage and his reputation, at the age of 42, for the unreturned and skittish regard of a 16-year-old. I wanted to write about him and that cataclysm of love and jealousy in his tormented intellectual life. That was subsumed, I think, in *A Time To Dance*, as was the story of the play and film *The Blue Angel*. The central image of this story, that of the wrecked schoolteacher's complete humiliation, was again (who knows why?) something which clung around and emerged for this particular novel.

And so, out of the blue, came the opening sentence: "Darling Bernadette. As you have forbidden me to talk to you I must write." Unravelling that led to the novel, which concerns the unexpected, overwhelming and jealous passion of a 54-year-old man for an 18-year-old woman, who is, it transpires, as compelled by him as he by her.

This is not the place to outline the plot or comment on the book, other than to say that in the context of the piece it attempts to tell a story of the whole of what is involved in a passionate and even uncontrollable love. Inevitably, it exposes itself and inevitably that will be remarked on. That is because it deals not with the niceties of affection, which are so important and so well-charted, nor the bludgeoning of pornography or cynical sexuality, but passion and eroticism, total and blind to everything else.

● *A Time to Dance* will be published next Monday by Hodder & Stoughton at £12.95.

CRITIC'S CHOICE LITERATURE

PATRICK BARLOW: Founder of the often hilarious National Theatre of Brent and author of *All The World's A Globe*. A chance to hear him discuss the history of the human race in a calm, rational manner with Giff Rhys Jones. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 071-830 0493, today, 1pm, £2 plus £1 membership.

POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND: Last in the series of lunchtime readings presented by Poems on the Underground. Thomas Hardy poetry and prose compiled and read by Cicely Herbert and Gerard Benson. Part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. British Library, Seminar Room, Great Russell Street, London WC2 071-636 1544, today, 1pm, free.

THE GREEN AWAKENING: The latest edition of Poetry Review focuses on green concerns.

"Nothing in nature is simply itself any more... Where does that leave us - not only 'nature poets' but all of us who use the natural world as a point of reference?" Philip Gross sets the theme for an evening of poetry, song and discussion. Alison Brackenbury, David Gascoyne, Helen Dunmore read with Philip Gross; Leon Rosselson sings his witty and densely-worded songs; Peter Farago reads his new collection, *Chairs*, a discussion with Norman Willis (TUC), Simon Mundy (Director, National Campaign for the Arts), and Ivan Hattings (Director, World Wildlife Fund).

Poetry Society, 21 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 029, tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2.25 members).

ROSALIND BELDEN, LEE HARWOOD AND TOM RAWORTH: Undoubtedly the reading of this week. Among Belden's five novels are *The Limit*, *Dreaming of Dead People* and last year's *Is Beauty Good?* Harwood has published 16 books of poetry over the past 20 years, represented by the major collection *Crossing the Frozen River* (Penguin) and his past work appears increasingly poignant, determined to articulate positive qualities of beauty against a disenchanted world. By contrast, Raworth writes fast and pithy poems, delivered at breakneck speed. He is a truly jazz-inflected poet; from line-to-line and word-to-word, it twists and bobs, it soars. The publication of *Tottering Stair* (Bloodaxe), a selection of work from 1983-1989, confirmed him as a major poet whose achievements are sadly neglected in his homeland.

Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 071-223 2223, tomorrow, 8.15pm £3 (£2).

KATHERINE GALLAGHER, CAROLINE PRICE, MYRA SCHNEIDER AND FRANCES WILSON: Four poets, Gallagher best known of the group, read from and discuss their work. Palmers Green Library, Green Lanes, London N21 0B1-886 3728, Sat, 7.30pm, £2 (£1.50).

LENN SISSAY AND LEVI TAFARI: Sissay has a very strong reputation as an accomplished entertainer. His dynamic delivery and charming introductions mark him out. The poems, however, often fail to challenge us as strongly as the political music of his subject matter deserves. Levi Tafari, a club stylist, completes the programme. Willesden Green Library Centre, 85 High Road, London NW10 0B1-451 0294, Sat, 8pm, £2 (£2).

NEW VOICES: Three poets based in the East Midlands, each of whom has received a writer's bursary to further their work. Alan Dummett, playwright and theatre director, John Gales, whose work is concerned with "the blessings of disorder and the comedy and bravery of those who try to inflict order upon the world", Elizabeth Smith whose writing is about issues arising out of cultural, class, and sex differences. Fagins Book Shop, Market Street, Leicester (0533 554854), tomorrow, 8pm, £2 (£1).

WATERSHED MEDIA CENTRE: Readings forming part of a feminist book fortnight. Joan Barfoot, Canadian writer and journalist, will read from and discuss her latest novel, *Family News*, published this month. Other books for which she is known include *Dancing in The Park* and *Just Three* (tomorrow, 7.30pm). Alison Fell and Leslie Dick, *Serpent's Tale* have just published *The Seven Cardinal Virtues*, written by seven of our sharpest women writers. Two of these, Alison Fell, representing Cheshire, and Leslie Dick, representing Cheshire, discuss their relative merits and read some of their work (Mon, 7.30pm).

Watershed Media Centre, 1 Canons Road, Bristol (0272 276444). Tickets £3, (£2).

THE HARD EDGE CLUB: This week's featured writers are the Nigerian, Patience Agbabi, Frank Banger (known as a punk blues poet), and the tough-talking Sue Johns, Russell Sels and Nick O'Neill. One of the liveliest and most unpredictable readings series in London at present. The Red Lion (upstairs), Great Windmill Street, London W1 071-732 4007, Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50, (£1).

GEORGE BUCHANAN: A celebration of the work of dedicated European poet George Buchanan, who died last year. Readings of his work by several well-known poets, including Michael Longley, James Simmons, and William Ousey. Buchanan's work is generous and spirited and deserves far wider recognition. The Poetry Society (as above), Tues, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2 and £1.25).

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THEATRE

Nightmares and nicotine

Simon Gray is no respecter of critics and his latest play has just reached the West End, but he agreed to meet and talk about it with one of our theatre critics, Jeremy Kingston



Simon Gray, directing his new play *Hidden Laughter*

Simon Gray does not love theatre critics, and some of them he has frankly loathed. The pack of dismal *Old Boys* who meet a variety of horrid deaths in his last television play were given the names of Wardle, Coveney, Billington *et al*, and some of the minor details of their family life were uncannily correct. Only a playwright's joke, of course, but as I looked at the two drinks on the table between us I wondered if I should discreetly switch the glasses.

I had suggested we talk about his new play over the telephone, safely separated by five miles of cable, and it was Gray who suggested a drink at the Groucho Club, where he is a member and I am not, so that I was unable to buy the drinks. He is a tall man, heavily built, and except when lighting another Silk Cut he kept his eyes on me.

He has smoked heavily for years. "I tried nicotine chewing-gum for a time, but in one of the worst nightmares of my life I was holding a great mass of the stuff out in front of me, with hairs growing all over it. I'd rather have the smoking than the nightmares."

Hidden Laughter, starring Felicity Kendal and Peter Barkworth, and directed by Gray, is now previewing at the Vaudeville. Set in a West Country cottage, it follows the fortunes - "mostly misfortunes" - of a London family weekendening there over a period of 13 years.

Is it a comedy? "Oh, people laugh," Gray plays, however, are never quite that simple. The wit, the dagger-sharp observation and the general muddle his characters make for themselves is shot through with a bleak vision of life: "old life itself", as one of the men in *The Common Pursuit* ruefully remarks. Gray considers himself an optimist, but

possibly in the way that Chekhov thought of himself as a writer of comedies.

This will be his 16th play in 24 years, not counting seven television plays and two adaptations for the National Theatre, but counting the two versions of *The Common Pursuit* as one. This makes him our most prolific playwright after Ayckbourn.

Except for the five Victorian explorers in *The Rear Column*, going to pieces in the upper reaches of the Congo, his characters are drawn from the circles he has moved and worked in since he arrived in Cambridge as a postgraduate at the age of 22: novelists, agents (one of each is featured in *Hidden Laughter*), lecturers, schoolmasters, publishers.

They are literate, witty and doomed to disappointment, if nothing worse, when the final curtain falls. In fact, the circles they whirl in are those of a 20th-century and intensely English *Inferno*, except that, unlike the world of Dante's phantoms, comedy keeps breaking in. With the exception of the Congo one, all his plays, even the almost classic *Close of Play*, in which Sir Michael Redgrave gave his last performance, are frequently thunderously funny.

One of the language tutors in *Quarantine's Terms* comments, as he watches his foreign students learning croquet, "They'll discover how much incivility is possible on our tranquil English lawns." It is a discovery Gray himself continues to make and display to us. And not incivility to others alone, though half-a-dozen of his men - usually those played by Alan Bates - would win medals for that in Hell. On tranquil lawns and Cambridge rooms and London offices Gray's cultivated Englishmen and women are shown being grossly uncivil to themselves.

Sometimes they smoke too much - hard to forget Rik Mayall's backing cough by the end of *The Common Pursuit* - but mostly they disjoin their lives through all too recognizable fears: fear of failure (not famous enough, not sexy enough), fear of success, above all the fear of changing their lives. Somewhere before the plays begin, idleness or rivalry or the dashed hope of childhood love has wormed its way into their hearts and none of them dares shake it out.

You do not have to be foreign to fathom the English, but it helps. Though Gray might seem as English as they come (Westminster, Trinity, days spent at Lord's and the Oval) his early years may have given him just enough of an outsider's edge for him to learn, as the language schools might put it, the English as a foreign people. Evacuated to Canada during the War, he returned with a crewcut and Montreal accent, and after his schooling he went back to take his degree at Hamilton, Nova Scotia.

He drew on his experiences there for his first two novels, written while still at Cambridge. "I loved Hamilton," he says. "It was a marvellous place." Perhaps it lies too far in the past to be a spur for drama. Or he was just too happy there.

One day, as an Englishman, he might tackle Canadians as a foreign people. For the time being, England presents territory rich and convoluted enough for his beady eye and pen. If the smoking and the nightmares spare him.

● *Hidden Laughter* previews at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 071-836 9887 on Monday to Friday 7.45pm, Saturday 5pm and 8.30pm. First Night June 12, 7pm.

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ARTS

CINEMA

Post-glasnost, some prefer it cold

David Robinson on the week's new films, including *The Package*, *Clean and Sober*, *Diamond Skulls*, *3 Women in Love* and *Creator*

The villains in espionage thrillers change nationality from generation to generation, according to the shifts of international politics. Throughout the 30 years embraced by two World Wars, spies, saboteurs and secret agents were fairly certain to be Germans. With the Cold War, the Communists usurped them. The liberal spirit of the late Sixties gave a look-in now and then to CIA renegades or dubious parties from the Middle East; but Russians stayed pre-eminent in the cloak-and-dagger business right up to and beyond perestroika.

The villains of *The Package* (15, Odeon, Leicester Square) are nothing if not up-to-the-minute: a conspiracy of extreme right-wing hawks drawn from the high military establishments of the US and the USSR, bent on restarting the Cold War. This they plan to achieve with an assassination during the latest disarmament conference.

The influence of newsreels is strong in the staging of the preparations for the conference and state visit. The Soviet president is a Gorbachev look-alike; and familiar aspects of the Kennedy assassination figure in this conspiracy. At the same time, there is a reassuring respect for a thriller tradition that goes back beyond Le Carré and Richard Condon to Hitchcock and John Buchan. The hero is very like a Buchanan-Hitchcock hero, a fugitive from his own side as well as from a powerful, malign conspiracy of villains, who have a protean ability to assume any guise.

John Bishop's screenplay is a maze of complications, yet always remains lucid, as the tough, resourceful hero (Gene Hackman) is swept from peril to peril, in company with his quick-witted ex-wife (Joanna Cassidy) and a seasoned Chicago detective (Dennis Franz). Tommy Lee Jones is the tough, menacing assassin.

The Package is very much what

a cloak-and-dagger thriller should be: economical in writing, too fast to permit reflection on its probability, well-paced, well-staged, with simple but strongly defined characters and precise casting. The director was Andrew Davis.

The traditional Hollywood drug movie is about teenagers who get into bad company, have a lot of fun on the downward path and narrowly escape dramatically tragic finales. *Clean and Sober* (15, Warner West End) is new and contemporary in taking a mature addict from the professional middle class, and seeing him through the trying and undramatic process of a cure.

Michael Keaton plays a successful real estate salesman whose motive for checking into the clinic is far from desire to cure his cocaine and alcohol addictions. Rather, he seizes on the anonymity promised by the clinic as a sanctuary after a one-night bed companion dies of an overdose, at the same time that a slight case of embezzlement looks like catching up with him.

Keaton manages to sustain our concern for a character who is certainly in his addicted egocentricity — is essentially unsympathetic; and the successive phases of the cure, the passage from resentful resistance to willing co-operation, are carefully studied. He at first fights off the help of former addicts — Morgan Freeman in a very different role from that of Miss Daisy's driver; and M. Emmett Walsh — but in the end finds himself trying desperately to support others. His liaison with a young woman from the other side of the tracks contributes the film's less convincing scenes.

The therapeutic intention of the film is undoubted and admirable; and there is something homespun and touching in the maxim of the first-time director, Glenn Gordon Caron, a former screenwriter: "You can't dig a hole so deep that you still can't climb out of it. This is one of the glories of being a

human being." Yet with all its merits, the hero's odyssey makes a heavy-going two hours' viewing.

The feature debut of documentary director Nick Broomfield, *Diamond Skulls* (18, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue), presents a rather partial view of the English landed aristocracy as degenerate, corrupt and ruthlessly self-serving. This particular dynasty lives in a Palladian palace in Yorkshire, where the paying public peer into the dining-room, the walls are cracking from the subterranean encroachments of the NCB, and the lavatories are a marathon run from the bedrooms.

Lord Crews (Michael Hordern) has mellowed into gracefully libidinous senility. His lady (Judy Parfitt) has a freezing smile and snobbery that gives no quarter. Sir Hugo (Gabriel Byrne), heir to the title and the film's protagonist, is incestuous, a sadist (to draw a veil over other sexual quirks) and the victim of pathological jealousy.

His vicious younger sister has picked up a very common accent, more Queen's Park Rangers than the Sloane variety. His little son, in preparation for boarding school, is submitted to an archaic gentlemen's barbershop where forelocks have been worn away with constant tugging.

Their friends are lager-loups whose high spirits, in the privacy of the officers' mess or the baronial hall, would make football hooliganism seem decorous by comparison. Pity those from the lower ranks, socially or economically, such as Hugo's wife (Amanda Donohoe) or the sacrificial victim in this particular story (Douglas Hodge).

It is a social view which even Dave Spat or Ken Livingstone might consider a trifle slanted; but Tim Rose Price's script makes it the background for a suspense thriller about obsession and conspiracy. The story begins with Hugo, driving with four friends, committing a hit-and-run killing. Out of this, Rose Price develops a



Old-fashioned heroics: Gene Hackman and Tommy Lee Jones in Andrew Davis's *The Package*

tangled web of dark doings. Broomfield, whose aggressive documentaries might have prepared us for his fierce social view, directs effectively, even if he is over-loud of ominous and enigmatic close-up details. It is sometimes intriguing, though never believable.

3 Women in Love (Cannons Piccadilly and Tottenham Court Road, 18) is an erotic game devised by the German director Rudolph Thome and originally titled *Der Philosoph*. The philosopher, a bookish and virginal young man, one day walks into a men's boutique with the innocent intent of buying a suit. Instead he finds himself kidnapped, body and soul, by the "Three Graces" — they claim to be "time agents" —

who run the establishment. Cartesian philosophy and four-in-a-bed turn out to be happily reconcilable. Thome, a solemn-seeming fellow, writes, "I am playing, and of course, I'm ironical, but I am also extremely serious." The pleasant cast all enter so merrily into the film's undress, that any seriousness might easily be forgotten.

Creator (15, Odeon Mezzanine, Leicester Square) has been sitting on the shelves since 1985, which is not entirely surprising. It charges dizzily in all directions, without ever deciding where it is going. Peter O'Toole is the only one to stay more or less astride this bucking bronco of a film, clinging grimly to his well-known Irishman's imitation of an English

eccentric: haw-bawing, looking down his handsome nose and chewing a nine-inch cigar.

O'Toole plays a Nobel Prize-winning biologist, dedicated to recreating the cells of his 30-year-old wife. In addition, though, there are plots and sub-plots — variously comic, erotic, farcical, tragic and philosophical — involving college politics; the amorous pursuits of the biologist's assistant (Vincent Spano); the conquest of love over death; and the biologist's own liaison with a self-styled teenage nymphomaniac (Mariel Hemingway).

Adapting his own novel, Jeremy Leven crams in so much action and so many half-formed ideas that all is wrecked. The director was Ivan Passer.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

APARTMENT ZERO (20:20 Vision, 15): Ponderous psychological drama with a crab film-buff flavour, featuring Colin Firth as a repressed British expatriate in Argentina. Directed by Martin Donovan. 1989.

CHECKING OUT (CBS/Fox, 15): Strained black comedy, with Jeff Daniels as a PR man stricken by hypochondria. An inauspicious American debut for David Leland, writer-director of *Wish You Were Here*. 1989.

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (CBS/Fox, 15): Robert Wise's science-fiction classic about Kessler (Michael Rennie), the extra-terrestrial diplomat trying to stop war. Exciting, intelligent; music by Bernard Herrmann. 1951.

DRAGNET (CIC, PG): Failed attempt to parody the TV police series, with Dan Aykroyd as the strait-laced cop teamed with a freewheeling colleague (Tom Hanks). Amusing at first, but the film drives itself into a cul-de-sac. 1987.

THE DREAM TEAM (CIC, 15): Agreeably anarchic adventures of four psychiatric patients let loose on Manhattan. Goblets of sentimentality hang heavy at times, but sprightly performances (Michael Keaton, Peter Boyle, Stephen Furst) win the day. Director, Howard Zieff. 1989.

FANTASTIC VOYAGE (CBS/Fox, 15): Tired characterizations, but the notion of miniaturized doctors rushing through a scientist to operate on his brain is dazzling, and the sets are huge fun. Stephen Boyd, Raquel Welch. 1955.

I'M GONNA GET YOU SUCKA (Warner, 15): Wild send-up of the black-action movies of the Seventies, featuring such luminaries as Jim Brown and Bernie Casey. A first feature for writer-director-star Keenen Ivory Wayans. 1989.

THE SICILIAN (CBS/Fox, 18): Michael Cimino's botched life of the Sicilian outlaw Salvatore Giuliano (Christopher Lambert). Sluggish, flatly written, waywardly acted; at least the landscapes look believable. 1987.

THE UNTOUCHABLES (CIC, 15): Eliot Ness's gangbusters versus Al Capone: an entertaining battle, filled with bullets, blood, thoughtful dialogue from playwright David Mamet, an *Oceana* Steps parody. Director, Brian De Palma. 1987.

YOUNG EINSTEIN (Warner, PG): In which young Albert Einstein, son of Tasmanian apple farmer, discovers gravity and rock 'n' roll. Tiresome, determinedly wacky comedy from Australian satirist Yarrow Senious. 1989.

GEOFF BROWN

TELEVISION

Writes and wrongs on cue

ALAN Bennett's new Channel 4 series, *Poetry in Motion*, on six 20th-century poets, got off to an uneasy start. An anonymous lady galloped across a cliff-top while Bennett's unmistakable voice, like Thora Hird playing Lady Blacknell for a North Country rep' in about 1950, intoned one of Thomas Hardy's lesser poems. At that point the production budget must have run out, for we were abruptly transported to a parish hall where, in front of a small but devoted gathering, Bennett began to read as from the pulpit.

Hovering dangerously close to the kind of academic parody the presenter himself once wrote for a 1960s series called *On the Margin*, this new series seems to have been designed as a mixture of declamation and gossip, and although Bennett is no Gielgud at the verse-speaking, his footnotes are, as usual, unmissable.

The first Mrs Hardy was apparently fey, vague and mad, but, as Bennett said, it is a thankless life being the wife of an artist: they are always expected to do the buttering-up as well as the washing-up. Then we got a brief glimpse of the second Mrs Hardy (proposed to in a graveyard and shown a preserved tomb before the engagement ring), as well as memories of old Thomas himself, bicycling to a church 20 miles away to deliver sermons, during which his bald head would steam gently in the pulpit.

A man who never liked to be touched, so that he walked in the road to avoid rubbing shoulders,

Hardy perfectly suited one of Bennett's more perceptive asides from his own pulpit: "Before they are anything else at all, if they are any good, most writers are absurd." As both biography and autobiography, that was well worth the full 30 minutes, though I remain hopeful that the series will end with Bennett's recollection of Virginia Woolf winning the *Evering Standard* award for the tallest woman writer of 1926, or George Rylands down from Cambridge to see the Berlins (Irving and Isaiah), and wrestling at Finsbury Park. Twentieth-century literary gossip has no better reader or writer than this one: it is only when Bennett starts reading the verse itself that one misses an actor or two.

Other writers, other memories: BBC 2's *Hidden Ground* took John McGahern back to County Leitrim, where his latest novel is set and was written facing a blank wall, since that is all he has ever wanted to look at while working out of his imagination. An exile of the spirit, who has gone home to a farm he reckons he will never leave until the hearse comes, McGahern rambled around both his land and his theories of displacement, focusing on a period when he was sacked as a local Roman Catholic school-teacher in Dublin, following the publication of a novel which the Church did not admire.

We do not mind your book being banned, they said, but you married a foreign woman in a registry office, and that we can't be having. In Ireland, truth is always

stranger than fiction, especially applied to its fiction writers.

Other writers, other memories again: Jenny Barracough introduced a new series of *Promisers*, on BBC 1, by taking the South African novelist Nadine Gordimer back to Mozambique where, 25 years ago, she spent her honeymoon. Electrified wires and razor-traps now mark the border, but Gordimer's was a social rather than political study, concentrating on the erstwhile sexual and racial freedom of Mozambique and its contrast to the clenched racist inhibitions of South Africa.

Gordimer's are the eyes of a novelist in search of a story, but here there were so many that the camera found it difficult to focus. Her most intriguing thesis was that Mozambique was the "continent" (as in "popping over to the continent") for a generation of repressed South Africans.

Politically, life is more complex now, but relics of the old Portuguese colonial luxury can still be found amid the ravages of civil war and a collapsed economy. Across this frontier of race and wealth as well as African geography, Gordimer and Barracough found Mozambique a nation where 200,000 children are now orphaned and 1,000 schools and hospitals closed.

South African rebels have made of it a human wasteland, and the national guilt that Gordimer feels is that of the exile who can see, all too clearly, yet one more reason to cry the beloved country.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

FILM BUSINESS

Widescreen, all-action cliffhanger



Financial kingpins of the MGM deal: Owner Kirk Kerkorian (left), Steve Ross, and Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti (right)

Andrew Lycett on the latest, and possibly the largest, film industry merger, which involves the most famous Hollywood names

If it works, it promises to be one of the most powerful film production and distribution conglomerates in the world. MGM founder, Louis B. Mayer, would probably approve. Today, Pathe Communications, headed by Giancarlo Parretti, a colourful 50-year-old Italian financier who was once a writer at London's Savoy Hotel, is set to complete its take-over of Mayer's Hollywood studio, which has become Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/United Artists.

Ever since he first announced his \$1.2 billion (£706 million) bid for the studio in March, it has been touch and go whether Parretti would raise the necessary money. He was helped out by Steve Ross, chairman of another media conglomerate — the recently merged Time Warner. Ross agreed to guarantee loans for half the price asked by MGM/UA's billionaire owner, Kirk Kerkorian.

In return, Time Warner gained worldwide distribution rights to the United Artists library of 1,000 films, including *Rain Man*, *The Pink Panther* and Bond movies. Pathe/MGM/UA makes the films, which are distributed by Warner and shown on Time's widespread cable network. That is the sort of media equation appreciated by Wall Street. Even so, Parretti was not helped in his quest for the remaining finance by the four-year prison sentence handed down to him in *absentia* in April, by a Naples court, for fraudulent bankruptcy. An appeal has been lodged. Various dates for the closing of the Pathe offer for MGM/UA shares passed. Today is the last.

Parretti first came to international attention in 1988 when he bought the ailing Cannon film production and cinema chain from Israeli cousins Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus. He renamed the group Pathe, and moved it to Los Angeles. From there he set about developing a contemporary worldwide media business. That means

owning film production and distribution (television, cable, cinema exhibition) companies. It is no good making films if the maker cannot show them to the public. Parretti entrusted the production side to the respected Alan Ladd.

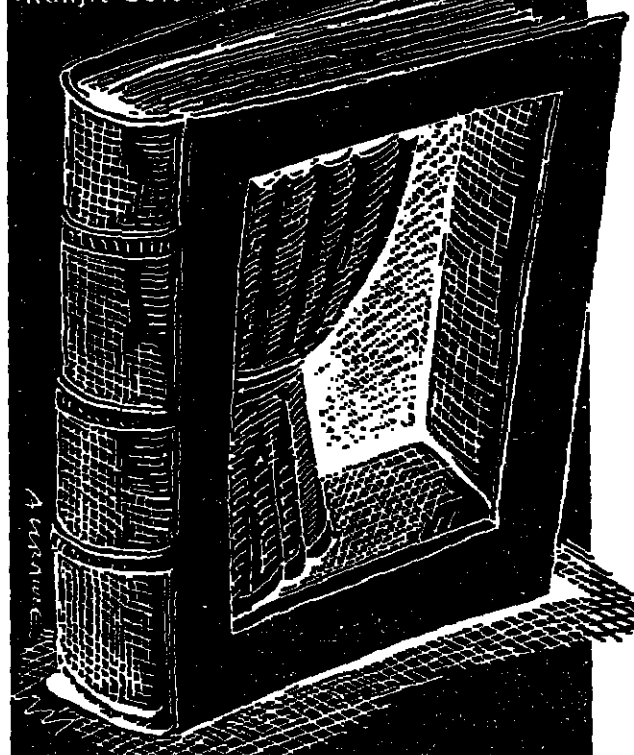
Initially, with his partner Florio Fiorino, Parretti concentrated his distribution efforts in Europe. Ownership of the old Cannon company gave him access to nearly 400 cinemas in Britain (in all, around 600 in Europe). Some of these he has recently sold to Italian media entrepreneur Silvio Berlusconi, largely to raise money for his MGM/UA bid.

Meanwhile, back in the USA in March, Parretti became the latest in a long line of suitors (after Rupert Murdoch, Christopher Skase's now bankrupt Qintex Corporation and cable-king Ted Turner) to buy Kirk Kerkorian's 80 per cent stake in MGM/UA. Getting Time Warner in on the deal surprised the rest of the film industry. It was a masterstroke in terms of the media conglomerate Parretti says he wants to create as a "bridge between the US and European entertainment markets". Warner already draws 40 per cent of its revenues from its foreign film distribution and cinema exhibition businesses. It clearly wants to extend its overseas network. One of Steve Ross's first initiatives as chairman of the merged Time Warner was a \$28 million joint venture with Sovexportfilm in two American-style cinema "multiplexes" in Moscow and Leningrad.

This raises the question of whether the cool Ross has his own agenda. What if Parretti has difficulty servicing the loans he has had to raise for his MGM/UA deal? Then Time Warner might step in to take control. Ross has put it on record that he wants to "create within five years the most successful media and entertainment company in the world". A clash of giants might be developing.

THE ILLUSION by Pierre Corneille

Translated by Ranjit Bolt



Cast: Steven Beard, Duncan Bell, Dusty Gedge, Rosalind Knight, Sylvester Le Touzel, Phelim McDermott, Virginia Radcliffe, Stuart Richmond, Lee Simpson, Harmage Singh Kalirai, Sian Thomas, Stephen Wale, Timothy Walker

Directed by Richard Jones
Designed by Nigel Lowery
Lighting Designed by Pat Collins

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...it's just a matter of getting the chemistry right!

PETER O'TOOLE
CREATOR

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he points out that the first thing you should do is to read the newspaper. This is because the newspaper is the best source of information. It gives you the news of the day, and you can find out what is happening in the world. It is also a good source of information for the business world. You can find out what companies are doing, and what the market is like. The newspaper is a very important part of our lives, and it is something that we should all read every day.

Leading article: 100 efends figures doubts

£5,000 bail for crash driver

Report misled

Polish service

Advis service

Report misled

Report misled

Report misled

Report misled

BBC 1

6.00 Ceebeak
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Paul Barden and Fiona Foster 6.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by The Travel Show Guides. A holidaymaker's guide to the Greek island of Crete (r) 9.35 Discovering Birds. Tony Soper takes another look at our feathered friends (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r)
10.25 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (r) 10.50 The First Test. England versus New Zealand in the first Test match from Trent Bridge. Includes news and weather at 10.55 and 12.00. 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceebeak)
1.50 Cricket: First Test. Further coverage of the first Test match between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge
3.50 Rupert narrated by Ray Brooks 3.55 Mersey Tales. Mark Chatterton tells the story of Peter and the Spy, by Graham Smith. Includes news and weather at 4.05. 4.05 Laureate and Hardy (r) 4.05 Hardy and Laureate (r) 4.20 New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) 4.35 Defenders of the Earth. Cartoon series
4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter. Former Blue Peter presenter Janet Ellis returns to give the results of the

Youth Asthma Award Scheme run by the Asthma Society. (Ceebeak)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceebeak). Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceebeak)



Professor Rubik and his cube (8.00pm)

8.00 Tomorrow's World. Bob Symes goes horse riding and discovers some new innovations to help both horse and rider, including a saddle that adjusts to the size of the horse and slip-on shoes for horses to wear on different surfaces. There is also a report from Hungary about the Prince of Wales's recent meeting with Professor Rubik, inventor of the famous cube.
8.30 Russ Abbot. Includes Milkens' Revenge, a tale of untimely death (r). (Ceebeak). Northern Ireland: Spotlight

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Sue Cook present the last in the series which includes reconstructions of the murder of 11-year-old Britton schoolboy Wayne Taylor, a bank raid in St Helens, Lancashire; and the abduction and murder of a driver who was driven by two men in blacked-out cars with Northern Ireland accents from Dicksboro, Norfolk, to Thetford Forest and tied to a tree. (Ceebeak)
10.15 Question Time. Peter Sissons is joined at the Greenwood Theatre by Tom King, Secretary of State for Wales; Ruth Scurr, Minister of State for the Home Office; Simon Jenkins, editor of The Times; and Clive Short MP, Labour's spokesman on social security
11.15 Crimewatch UK Update. Nick Ross and Sue Cook report on viewers' reports on tonight's reconstructed crimes. (Ceebeak)
11.25 Cagney and Lacey: Fathers and Daughters. A father apparently commits suicide, but Mary Beth is suspicious and manages to extract a confession from the man's widow. Then the daughter goes to the police station claiming that she murdered her father after suffering years of sexual abuse. Starring Time Daly and Sharon Gless (r)
12.15am Cricket: First Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights from the first day's play between England and New Zealand in the first Test match at Trent Bridge
12.45 Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Chain Letters. Word game 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy about a teenager with a father who is an alien
10.30 This Morning. Magazine show hosted by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.10 The Ricklars (r) 12.30 Home and Away. Australian soap about a couple and their five foster children
1.00 News at One with John Suckett. Weather 1.20 Thames News and weather
1.30 Daytime Green: The Green Life Guide. Environmental series presented by Day Barlow and Alastair Macdonald 2.00 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in a rural Australian township
2.30 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond looks behind the scenes of independent television 3.00 Connections. Lateral thinking quiz 3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Sons and Daughters
4.00 Hixley Pig (r)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Natural splendour accompanied by soothing music
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily. Business and financial news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series
2.00 Open View. Leslie Judd reviews two Open College courses - Firm Start and Book-Keeping for the Small Business (Ceebeak)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Epsom. Brought to you by the Channel 4 racing team, the Stanley Wootton Stakes (3.05); the Hanson Coronation Cup (3.45); and the Seven Seas Stakes (4.15). The race commentator is Graham Goodie
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. William G. Stewart introduces a panel of 15 contestants vying for a place on the leaderboard
5.00 Garibaldi the General. Romanticized dramatization of the life of the Italian hero, starring Franco Nero. Garibaldi finds that his efforts are not appreciated when he acclaims Victor Emmanuel as "King of Italy"
6.00 Things To Come. Programme five of the 13-part series taking a look at the future, often with a satirical edge. Presented by Malcolm Bennett and Penny Southgate
6.30 Kate & Allie. Sons and Lovers. A comic look at divorced life American-style. Allie finds more than she bargained for in the classroom when a young man tries to teach her the finer points of photography. Starring Jane Curtin and Susan Saint James (r)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zarah Bhadoz
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Opinions: High Stakes Poker. Harold Pinter, who kicked off this series of personal views last week, was a hard act to follow but the Indian writer, Gita Mehta, is soon into her trenchant style with a disenchanted view of the way Indian politicians have tried to bribe, bully and manipulate the country's 500 million voters. She

4.15 The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin (r) 4.40 Enid Blyton's Castle of Adventure. A dramatic and to the adventure series
5.10 Blockbusters
5.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spredley with details of One to One/Gala Day at Levesden Hospital, Watford
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. (Ceebeak)
7.30 The Week. Pantomime and music. Jo Corvin whose job is to keep New York's Hudson River pollution-free
8.00 The Bill. More high quality drama from Sun Hill police station, now refurbished. A brutal mugging leads to an arrest but WDC Martelli is worried that she may not have sufficient evidence for a conviction. (Ceebeak)
8.30 This Week. Pantomime and music. Violence. A report on a new campaign against pornography based on the allegation that there is a direct link between pornography and sexual violence against women
9.00 LA Law. Shick, dressed on a team of wealthy American lawyers. (Ceebeak)

offers her theme as a warning to the states of eastern Europe, who must similarly try to foster political democracy in a backward economy. With half the Indian electorate unable to read or write, it is perhaps no wonder that they have been vulnerable to persuasion of both the violent and non-violent kinds. But Gita Mehta sees optimistic signs. The people are refusing to be pressured and are starting to hit back. Personalities, she reckons, are counting for less than issues. Voters, not politicians, have emerged as the true guardians of Indian democracy
8.30 My Two Dads: Friends and Lovers. Forgettable American sitcom about two men bringing up a 12-year-old girl. Tonight Nicole's baby-sitter becomes the object of Michael's desire



Miranda Richardson as Ruth Ellis (8.00pm)

9.00 Film: Dance with a Stranger (1985). Like Yield to the Night, shown recently on Channel 4 in tribute to its star Diana Dors, Dance With a Stranger is a cinematic version of the case of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to hang in Britain. Set with capital punishment now abolished, the contemporary interest of Dance With a Stranger lies in its 1980s perspective

10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.35 The City Programme. Would Britain's entry into the ERM prove to be a straitjacket in a sterling crisis? And Lloyd's of London's a starter of litigation and internal dissent
11.05 When in Rome. What Rome has to offer those with no interest in football
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H
12.30am A Problem Area. Viewers consulted on their personal and emotional problems
1.00 Film: You've Got To Live Dangerously (1975) starring Claude Brasseur and Annie Girardot. A tongue-in-cheek French thriller about a private eye who finds himself involved in a complex plot when he's hired to find out whether a young woman is cheating on her older lover. Directed by Claude Mankovsky
3.00 The Twilight Zone. Time and Teresa Golwiz - a tale of the supernatural
3.30 Backlog. Fairport Convention in concert
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

on such issues as sex and class. Ellis's shooting of her husband may have been a crime of passion which stemmed inevitably from their obsessive affair. But Sheaghy Delaney's incisive screenplay also has much to say about Ellis as the victim of a hypocritical society which condemned her both as a woman and for failing to attain her lover's upper-class status. Miranda Richardson, in her first big part, skilfully reflects these tensions, which are carefully underlined by Peter Newell's 1960s Gonouphobic direction. (Ceebeak)

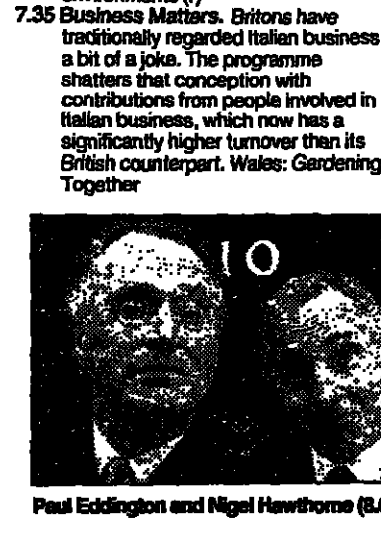
10.55 Faces of War: Four Hours in My Life. A series of award-winning documentaries on the human face of war is launched with Yorkshire Television's brilliant reconstruction of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. The young men of Charlie Company, many still in their teens, were typical American boys-next-door who in March 1968 murdered more than 500 defenceless men, women, children and babies in cold blood. The American girls were raped, homes destroyed and burned. The facts did not emerge until 18 months afterwards and the culprits went largely unpunished. Found guilty of 20 murders, Lt William Calley served only three days in gaol and was freed on parole. The film relives the incident with survivors from the American and Vietnamese sides, both, in their different ways, haunted by their memories of it. (Ceebeak)

12.10am Suburban. Finger-flicking good coverage of yesterday's Premiership Suburban World Cup. Watch as the small but perfectly formed teams battle to be world champions. The coverage includes the use of three micro-cameras to provide viewers with a unique angle on the popular table football game (r)
1.10 Film: El Sur (1983). Another delicate study in other words by the Spanish director Victor Erice, who made The Spirit of the Beehive. Set in a small farmhouse and nearby village in northern Spain in the 1950s, the film is told in flashback through the eyes of a girl at the ages of 15 and eight, concentrating on memories of her doctor father. The girl is played by two fine child actresses, Laila Beltran and Sonsoles Aranguren. Ends at 2.50

BBC 2

6.45 Open University: The Real World. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News
8.15 Westminster presented by Peter Mayne
9.00 Daytime on Two: River pollution 9.25 Maths: estimation strategies 9.40 Two young people experience homesickness on holiday 10.00 Saving the world from drug abuse 10.10 Techniques for learning to spell 10.20 A-level statistics 10.40 Designing textiles 11.00 The story of the Tudor warship, the Mary Rose 11.20 The effect on the environment of the ploughing of the Fens Country 11.40 Three young people's friendship is put to the test 12.03 Working with the elderly and handicapped 12.25 The use of new technology to help traditional industries in the Third World 12.50 Primary school science 1.20 PC Plinkerton 1.25 A look at animal families 1.40 Music for children
2.00 News and weather followed by Watch. Cage birds (r) 2.15 Made by Men. Windmills and the part they play in making bread (r)
2.30 Everything To Live For? David Jessel examines the pressures on university and college students that can lead to severe depression and, in extreme cases, suicide (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Includes Prime Minister's Question Time 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Cricket: First Test. Live coverage of the closing session of the first day's play in the first Test between England and New Zealand from Trent Bridge
6.35 Antenna. Three films from earlier editions of the science magazine. In Nature Bites Back it is suggested that the way in which our forests are managed causes a rare illness called Lyme Disease. Walking the

Chromosome follows the race between two scientists who are trying to track down the gene for cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease which affects two million people in Britain alone. Chromosomes of Chromosomes the basic assumptions behind the concept of evolution, and argues that instead of survival of the fittest, species survive more by chance than by their relative strength in their environments (r)
7.35 Business Matters. Britons have traditionally regarded Italian business as a bit of a joke. The programme shatters that conception with contributions from people involved in Italian business, which now has a significantly higher turnover than its British counterpart. Wales: Gardening Together



Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne (8.00pm)

8.00 Yes, Minister: A Question of Loyalty. There may be nothing fresh to say about this marvellous show but it is worth repeating a couple of basic points that may get overlooked. The first is the immaculate plotting. As Last of the Summer Wine has been demonstrating all these years, plots are not essential to situation comedy. But they can greatly enhance it. Part of the joy of Yes, Minister, even when

you have seen it before, is following the process by which apparently irreconcilable strands are ultimately resolved. The second point is that a series seemingly rooted in the very stone of Westminster and Whitehall in fact has a universal appeal, unrestricted by time or place. It does not date one whit and is enjoyed by audiences in the most unlikely countries. The moral must be that bureaucracy is the same the world over. Tonight's host and Sir Humphrey are due to appear before a select committee, but realize they are not necessarily on the same side
8.30 On the Line. A football team entirely composed of ex-drug addicts, the dangers of the 11 Races on the Isle of Man and the exposed new nationality ruling in soccer are discussed in tonight's edition of the fast-paced sports magazine
9.00 KYTV. Weekly satellite satire which, in tonight's episode, concerns itself with finding a spoken donor for Mr Reginald Heston of Sweden. The donor goes via an ice cream van to the hospital while the studio panel discusses their progress
9.30 BBC Design Awards 1990. Muriel Gray introduces the Environment section of the BBC's design awards, which includes the design measures taken by the M25 motorway at Lord's Cricket Ground, plus cafés, shopping centres, housing estates and garden mazes
10.10 Buzzer Night. Naturalist Jessica Holm continues her badge watch while Sally Magnusson highlights the many man-made hazards that badgers encounter
10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook 12.05am A Suitable Place to Have a Baby. Ends at 12.35

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
6.55am Gary King 6.30 Simon May
7.00am News 7.30am News
7.45am Gary Davies 8.00am Mike Read in the Afternoon 8.30am News 9.00am Mark Goodier 9.30am Top of the Pops (with BBC1) 10.00am Phil Schofield 10.30am John Peel 11.00am Noddy Campbell 12.00am John Peel
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FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

Civil law which allows someone attacked or threatened to take action has already been updated by the 1989 Dangerous Dogs Act. Mr Waddington is, however, planning a revision of the little used Town Police Clauses Act of 1847.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Mr Dobson said that Labour accepted that restricting coal-fired power station emissions, which could be done by switching to gas burning, had implications for miners' jobs, but said that "for the foreseeable future, we will encourage people to switch from private cars to public transport, but jibbed at the word "restrictions" on private transport to describe Labour's thinking. "We will encourage people by a range of fiscal measures," he said.

Concise crossword, page 15

ABROAD

Monday's figures are

AROUND BRITAIN

these are Tuesday's figures

North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA ROADWATCH

North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

HIGHEST & LOWEST

GLASGOW

GLASGOW

2

LIGHTING UP TIME

YESTERDAY

ROLLEN COUNT

HIGH				
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.50	6.4	2.16	6.8

Aberdeen	1.28	3.7	1.7
Avonmouth	7.22	11.8	7.4
Belfast	11.17	2.5	11.1

NOON

1032 HIGH 102

Informants

1. The following information is for the purpose of the audit only and should not be used for any other purpose.

Cardiff	12	54r	Wrexham
Edinburgh	12	54r	Newcastle
Glasgow	12	54r	Sheff Wed

TODAY

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ed by Met Office

C&G set to win takeover this time

CHELTONHAM and Gloucester Building Society has nearly completed negotiations to take over the 11-branch Walthamstow Building Society.

The C&G, the seventh biggest society, was thwarted last month in its attempt to take over Frome Selwood Building Society. The £300 million Walthamstow has specialized in low start or deferred interest mortgages and recently admitted that 20 per cent of these were in arrears. Advertising criticized, page 24

Profits rise

Electronics, the distribution group, reported its 22nd successive year of growth with profits up 11.2 per cent to £58.6 million in the 12 months to end March. Earnings per share climbed 10.8 per cent to 18.4p, while dividends rose 18.3 per cent to 6p per share after a final payment of 4.3p. An investment of £1,000 when the group went public 22 years ago is now worth more than £140,000.

Temps, page 25

Erskine ahead

Erskine House Group, the photocopier, reports pre-tax profits of £15.6 million (£15.1 million) for the year ended March on a turnover of £223.3 million (£166.1 million). It gave warning in April that earlier profit hopes of £20 million would not be met. A final dividend of 4.35p makes 6.65p (6.25p) for the year.

Temps, page 25

Job at Mecca

Mr Robert Nellist, the former finance director of Thorn EMI, has taken on the same job at Mecca Leisure Group, now under a £500 million-plus takeover threat from the Rank Organisation. He takes over from Mr Jeremy Long, who will continue as deputy chief executive.

Hearts snubbed

Hibernian rejected the bid from Hearts, the rival Edinburgh football club as unacceptable and said it intends to fight the bid "vigorously."

THE FOUND

US dollar 1.6880 (+0.0040)
W German mark 2.8485 (+0.0017)
Exchange index 89.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1881.0 (-12.9)
FT-SE 100 2358.5 (-21.6)
New York Dow Jones 2911.41 (-13.59)
Closing Prices ... Page 27
Major indices and major changes Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/2-15 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.73-7.72%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

London: £1.6880
New York: £1.6885
DM: £2.8485
SwF: £2.8485
Sfr: £2.8485
Yen: £2.8485
Index: 89.3
ECU: 20.722189
ECU: 1.94479

COMMODITIES

London: AM \$359.80 pm \$359.50
CME \$357.00-357.50 (\$211.50-212.00)
New York: CME \$357.00-357.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$15.65 bbl (\$15.70)
Dentons latest trading price

COMMODITIES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.22	2.18
Austria Sch	20.85	19.55
Belgium F	61.50	67.50
Canada \$	1.03	1.03
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.85
France F	10.01	9.41
Germany DM	2.985	2.795
Greece Dr	284.50	288.50
Hong Kong \$	11.13	10.93
Italy Lira	2185	2055
Japan Yen	232	214
Malaysia RM	11.45	10.75
Norway Kr	28.75	28.75
Portugal Esc	5.70	5.10
South Africa R	13.75	13.75
Spain Ptas	163	171
Sweden Kr	10.70	10.70
Switzerland F	2.515	2.355
Turkey Lira	4570	4170
USA \$	1.755	1.685
Yugoslavia Dnr	24.00	18.00

Prices for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Thames splashes out after profits hit £179m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THAMES Water surprised both the stock market and the water industry by declaring a final dividend higher than forecast in the privatization prospectus. Profits for the transitional year to end-March were also better than forecast, coming in at £179m pre-tax against the forecast minimum of £170 million.

Mr Roy Watts, chairman of Thames, said he proposed the higher dividend to the board only when he knew the final results, which were equivalent to £187 million pre-tax in a normal year. This is against the prospectus forecast of £179 million, with earnings per share on that basis of 43.6p against the forecast of 41.6p.

The dividend of 10.07p, against a forecast 9.72p per share, reflected the group's progressive dividend policy. "We felt shareholders should benefit," said Mr Watts.

The extra profits came from £11 million of profits on property sales, as well as increases in turnover and the benefit of high interest rates on cash balances.

Thames' move lifted most water shares on a day when stocks in other sectors were

falling. Its own shares rose 1.5p to 145.5p. Shares in some other water groups rose further, with Southern, the lowest priced, putting on 3p to 136p. When the 10 companies were privatized, Thames shares were offered on the lowest dividend yield because of their expected popularity. But they have lagged behind most others since flotation. The higher payment brought the dividend yield on Thames up to 7.1 per cent, about average for the sector.

Mr Lakis Athanasiou, water analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "I was astonished but probably not as astonished as the chairman of the other nine companies."

Mr Watts left London yesterday to lead a Thames Water roadshow to investors in Geneva, Paris and the US, and will later go to Japan. Foreign investors own less than 10 per cent of Thames shares.

Of the 650,000 investors who received Thames shares at privatization, 390,000 still have them, about 300,000 of these being customers.

Mr Michael Hoffman, chief executive of Thames, said he did not anticipate any need for a hosepipe ban this summer

because reservoirs were virtually full and other water sources in good shape.

He defended sludge dumping at sea. "It is said that the best environmental option has to go." Converting to incineration on advanced systems is expected to cost £100 million by 1998 but this should qualify to be passed through to customers. The expected £200 million cost of a new reservoir proposed for the Thames Valley had been notified before privatization as eligible to be passed through to customers.

Thames still expects to have cash balances at the end of this year, despite a rise in its capital investment programme from £240 million to £395 million.

Thames confirmed it had claimed a £15 million rebate on the cost of its purchase of Portals Water Services because of loss-making contracts. Mr Hoffman said although some loss-making contracts had not been completed, all managers concerned had left and the business was technically good. Turnover at PWT is expected to rise to about £115 million this year.

Comment, page 25



Dividend boost in the pipeline: chairman Roy Watts, right, and chief executive Michael Hoffman yesterday

Fraud squad begins inquiry into Dunsdale

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Metropolitan Police fraud squad has begun investigating the affairs of Dunsdale Securities, the London investment firm suspended on Tuesday after the departure of Mr Robert Miller, its only director, from the firm's offices on Friday.

The fraud squad moved in yesterday, acting on advice from Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which issued an urgent Rule 17 order against the company on Tuesday afternoon.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Metropolitan Police fraud squad officers are investigating the affairs of Dunsdale Securities. They are trying to determine if a crime has been committed."

Journalists who waited outside the company's offices in Park Lane yesterday were unable to find any trace of Mr Miller. He could not be

reached at his north London home.

Last night, a solicitor acting on behalf of clients was due to apply to have the company placed in provisional liquidation. Action was first taken against the company last Friday, after a client tried and failed to withdraw funds which had become overdue.

Dunsdale Securities, which specialized in gilts, is thought to have had between £15 million and £30 million on its books. Several deals are thought to be in the pipeline, and the figure may rise as amounts due for settlement become overdue.

Mr Jonathan Fisher, a partner with Jay Benning, the London solicitor, said he had been called in on Friday afternoon, after Mr Miller could not be contacted at Dunsdale's offices.

Mr Fisher said he was contacted by a client who had become concerned at the late payment of funds and had

approached Dunsdale to realize part of his portfolio. Mr Miller had been at his office during the morning, but could not be reached at lunchtime.

Jay Benning applied to the High Court for an order, freezing the assets of both Dunsdale Securities and Mr Miller. The order will stand until Mr Miller applies for it to be discharged, or in the event of any trial which may follow.

Mr Fisher said he had been contacted by a number of clients, many of whom had invested substantial amounts with Dunsdale Securities.

Fimbra ordered the company to cease trading late on Tuesday afternoon. Fimbra denied it had been slow to act, adding that it acted immediately on receiving complaints from clients.

Sir Gordon Downey, Fimbra chairman, was not available, but a spokesman denied there was anything wrong with the compliance and vetting systems used by the Association, despite the delay in taking action.

Mr Miller's company, set up in 1974, became a Fimbra member on July 29, 1988. It was allowed to transact all types of investment business and was permitted to handle client money.

Clients are protected up to a maximum of £48,000 each under the investors compensation scheme set up as part of the Financial Services Act. A large rush of claims could have a severe impact on the scheme, which has already paid out more than £3.3 million in the 18 months since its formation.

Mr Miller resigned as a director of City Trust, a small private London bank with assets of £6.2 million, in November 1985. Mr Philip Bingham, the company secretary, said Mr Miller had worked as a non-executive director and had "come in occasionally" to give advice. The bank specializes in private client work.

Hopes fade for early payout at BCMB

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has ruled out hopes of an early payout to investors who have £300 million frozen in British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank, the banking subsidiary of the collapsed financial services group.

A statement from the Bank's Deposit Protection Board said that although the Deposit Protection Scheme had been triggered by the group going into administration on Sunday, payments depend on the bank's creditors accepting the administrator's reorganization plans. The administrator has up to three months to put these together.

The statement continued: "While some delay before protection payments can be made is therefore inevitable, the board is seeking to keep this to a minimum."

The administration at BCMB has prevented depositors from withdrawing their funds, even though the Securities and Investment Board ordered financial services firms not to use the bank from last Friday. Many of the deposits belong ultimately to private investors, particularly the 50,000 customers of Stock Group, B&C's private client stockbroker. The board is liaising with BCMB and the administrators to discover how many clients are involved.

The Bank is charting new ground over its handling of BCMB, the first bank to be put into administration. Banks were included in the administration laws in August.

With net assets of £90 million, BCMB is likely to be able to pay all its depositors once the administrator has produced his reorganization programme. This is likely to include the sale of the bank or the winding-up of its loan book. If it cannot make a complete repayment, the protection scheme will pay three quarters of claims up to a £15,000 maximum.

Ernst & Young, the administrator, said it is looking at alternatives to ensure investors within the group can get their funds. These may include temporary loans to companies like Stock Group if they can be arranged.

Comment, page 25

Drug case bank cuts 500 jobs

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the trade finance specialist that pleaded guilty to laundering drug money in the US this year, is closing 17 of its 43 British branches with the loss of 500 jobs.

The bank has also admitted it is the subject of a new investigation by prosecutors in Florida. It said: "We are completely confident that once all of the facts are known and fairly evaluated by the (American) government, the bank will not be charged."

An internal report, leaked to the *Wall Street Journal*, gave warning, however, that the investigation posed "a very serious danger" of a new indictment against the bank.

BCCI (Overseas) pleaded guilty in February to two counts of laundering cocaine profits. It agreed to forfeit \$15 million and was placed on probation for five years.

It is thought that the latest investigation is asking why BCCI injected \$25 million into CentTrust Bank of Miami in 1988. CentTrust went into receivership in March.

The closures in Britain were announced after the bank's call for voluntary redundancies from its 2,400 staff

expired yesterday. The news also follows last month's announcement of the relocation of the bank's international support operations from London to Abu Dhabi with the loss of 800 jobs.

The closures are part of a worldwide cutback that was decided on after the government of Abu Dhabi took a 77 per cent stake in the bank in May. Last year, the bank slumped to a loss of \$498 million, after losing \$48 million in 1988.

A bank spokesman said the closures would be made within the next eight weeks. He added that the bank would pull out of peripheral activities such as factoring and leasing to concentrate on its core trade finance business.

BCCI is thought to be planning similar cutbacks in the US, but there have been suggestions that the extent of the bank's bad debt portfolio may hamper the reorganization. BCCI says only \$29 million of its \$152 million loan book has been classified as non-performing, but emphasizes this does not mean the loans cannot be recovered. A statement added that the bank provided \$600 million to cover bad debts.

Body Shop in £29.6m cash call

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BODY SHOP, the green retailer created by Mrs Anita Roddick, maintained its reputation for strong growth with pre-tax profits up 29 per cent to £14.5 million for the year to February. The group is raising £29.6 million to fund expansion and reduce gearing.

Sales rose 52 per cent to £84.5 million and earnings per share rose 35 per cent to 10p. The final dividend is 1p, making 1.83p for the year, an increase of 35 per cent.

The company, which has gearing of about 95 per cent, is raising £29.6 million through an open offer on the basis of one new share at 425p for every 12 held. The shares finished unchanged at 450p. There is also a one-for-one capitalization issue.

Part of the money raised will help fund a workplace creche but most will go towards up-grading manufacturing facilities. Mrs Roddick and her husband, Gordon, are not taking up their rights but will still control 30 per cent of the company.

The US business made a loss of £1.9 million because of start-up costs. Mr Roddick, the chairman, said it should be in profit in 18 months' time.

Body building, page 25

Companies are increasingly looking for sophisticated ways to finance growth. They are increasingly finding RoyScot.

Over the decade from 1978 to 1988 the proportion of industrial and commercial assets acquired by instalment credit has risen steadily from under 10 per cent. to approaching 40 per cent.

In monetary terms, it means the market is now worth around £14.5 billion, compared to around £1.5 billion in 1978.

The days of businesses automatically opting for a loan or an overdraft are going, not growing.

Today, more than one third of all company cars are acquired by leasing or contract hire. Comparatively little known ten years ago, contract hire alone now accounts for nearly 20 per cent of them.

The rapid expansion of the factoring and invoice discounting market, to a value of around £10 billion at the end of 1989, is a further illustration of the increasing sophistication with which companies finance their growth.

One company is in the forefront of all these increasingly important trends. That company is RoyScot.

Our Annual Review tells you all about our business. And more importantly, you'll find out what ours can do for yours.

For your copy call our Company Secretary, Alan Talbot, on 0242 224455 or write to him at our Registered Office, The Quadrangle, The Promenade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1PX.

RoyScot Finance Group

IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS GROW.
A member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group.
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GPA still flying high with 59% increase

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

GPA Group, the world's biggest aircraft leasing company, continued its phenomenal growth with a 59 per cent rise in profits to \$242 million on 88 per cent higher revenue of \$1.96 billion in the year to end-March.

Mr Tony Ryan, the chairman and chief executive, said the leasing subsidiary had won 20 new airline customers over the year, delivered aircraft to customers at an average rate of more than two per week and placed 148 new aircraft for 1990 and future years.

GPA expects to announce this month a substantial deal to lease aircraft to a Chinese airline, which, Mr Ryan says, is the first use of a full aircraft operating lease in China and "a major breakthrough in an important market."

The unquoted Irish company, based in Shannon but which accounts in dollars, the currency of the aircraft industry, has not paid tax on profits until now. From this year, it must pay 10 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from \$28.2 to \$41.9. Shareholders, which include Mr Ryan with 8 per cent but are mainly financial institutions and airlines in Japan, North America and Europe, receive a \$12 dividend, up from \$8.75. Sir John Harvey-Jones, deputy chairman, said this spring that GPA would probably seek a quotation before the end of 1991. The most recent private share trade, at \$650 per share, valued GPA at \$2.3 billion.

GPA admitted the British & Commonwealth affair could make this more difficult at the moment. "Atlantic Computers has caused some people to tar all leasing companies with the same brush," said a spokesman.

Ryder attacks irresponsible mortgage advertising

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

THE irresponsible marketing of mortgages by some lenders was criticized by Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, at the Building Societies Association conference in Brighton yesterday.

He was particularly concerned about low-start or deferred interest loans which appeared to claim some form of "lasting" monthly savings.

He said: "That is, at best, inaccurate and, in some instances, downright misleading, giving lenders a bad name. Lenders should ensure that their advertising fully explains the implications of the size and nature of loans being offered."

"Loans are a major financial commitment. Customers should not be encouraged to take out loans unless they are fully aware of all the consequences."

"There is some way to go before some advertisements reach an acceptable standard. This is a matter of both content and tone in the message conveyed to the borrowers."

"Many advertisements, particularly by brokers, leave too much unexplained and unclear; many do not, for example, make it clear to borrowers that the monthly payment will increase after an initial period."

Mr Ryder said he had passed to Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, recent examples of offending advertisements. He added: "We all know that the worst examples of hard sell come

not from building societies but from some of your competitors. But I have to say the building societies are not entirely blameless. Loans are a major financial commitment — not soap powder. Customers should not be encouraged to take out loans unless they are fully aware of all the consequences."

Mr Mark Bolest, BSA director general, said the housing market was suffering from a big slump because it had gone through a massive boom. He said: "Prices may stop falling, but there is no reason to expect a significant increase in prices for some time, as prices are currently very high in relation to incomes."

"Even if house prices fall by 10 per cent this year compared with last, they will still be high in relation to incomes at the end of the year."

He added that the optimistic scenario was for falling interest rates towards the end of this year and certainly into 1991. This would be coupled with a falling mortgage rate and house prices beginning to show signs of recovery late next year.

Mr Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, said the company had given some consideration to acquiring a building society.

Such a move could "certainly see some advantages in being able to offer our customers short-term savings products as well as satisfying their needs for longer-term savings and investment."

Profits at Reed rise to £302m

JAMES MORGAN



Davis: profits and payout news makes good reading

REED International, the publisher, raised pre-tax profits from £271.2 million to £302.0 million in the year to end-March despite difficult conditions in the women's magazines and local newspaper markets in Britain and the American business market (Martin Waller writes).

A final dividend of 9.4p makes a 14p (12p) total.

The launch of *Me* magazine took Reed's market share of the weekly women's magazines from 49 per cent to 60 per cent, said Mr Peter Davis,

the chairman and chief executive. During the year, the group spent almost £930 million on acquisitions, most in the US, raising the proportion of profits coming from outside Britain from 34 per cent to almost 40 per cent. The group aims to reach 50 per cent within two years.

Underlying profits growth for the group was about 9 per cent. Businesses bought over the past year contributed £62 million to operating profits.

Tempus, page 25

JFB profit growth continues with £5.7m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the metals and engineering group, saw a continued advance in pre-tax profits, this time 22 per cent to £5.7 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover grew 15.3 per cent to £60.2 million, despite the fall in British consumer demand. The aerospace and environmental sectors were particularly strong.

Mr George Hardie, finance director, said: "The advance is down to a lot of hard work and choosing the right direction. We have been driving for more exports." More than 60 per cent of revenues come from exports.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 3p. The dividend rises to 1p (0.8p).

The figures benefited from £264,000 interest receipts, compared with £312,000 payments last time. There was a £132,000 extraordinary loss.

Cutbacks from customers in the telecommunications market affected profits at Thomas Bolton & Johnson, JFB's 50 per cent associated company which supplies copper to the cable industry. Profits from associated companies fell to £677,000 (£866,000).

Mr Hardie said the company's product specialization and international spread of markets had enabled it to avoid the worst effects of the economic slowdown.

After all costs have been finalized and paid, the second-half profit and loss account will benefit by about £2 million, subject to tax.

JFB has about £12 million cash. Part will be used to install additional vacuum induction capacity in the Firth Rixton division to meet rising demand from the aerospace industry.

The shares fell ½p to 59½p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Japanese firm to help develop Rolls engine

ISHIKAWAJIMA-Harima, a Japanese heavy engineering company, is to help develop a Rolls-Royce jet engine for use on the 300-seater 777 airliner to be developed by Boeing. It has agreed to participate under a 1988 agreement between the two. Rolls-Royce will start developing the engine soon.

The Japanese company also agreed in 1988 to supply Rolls with turbine fins, shafts and other components for the Rolls-designed RB 211 aircraft engines. Meanwhile, Rolls says airlines in China have ordered Rolls-Royce engines to power 13 Boeing 757 aircraft in a deal worth about £80 million.

ABI Leisure ahead 39%

ABI Leisure Group, the North Humberdale caravan maker that came to the market this year, saw pre-tax profits rise 39 per cent to £2.94 million in the six months to end-February. Turnover advanced 21 per cent to £33.4 million and earnings per share rose 46 per cent to 8.3p. There is no interim dividend, but a final 3.1p is expected. The shares were unchanged at 130p.

Dealerships for Fitzwillton

FITZWILTON, the Dublin investment group, has made two acquisitions through Keep Trust, its wholly-owned motor distribution business. Keep Trust has bought Runway Motors of Bristol, a Toyota dealership, and the former Henley's Rover operation in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The combined net assets bought amount to £2.79 million.

ICM agrees Swiss bid

INTERNATIONAL Colour Management, the computerized colour control systems manufacturer, is recommending a £14.2 million cash bid from Brauerer Eichhof, Switzerland's fourth largest brewer. Terms are 12½p a share in cash, a premium of 39 per cent to the market price at close of business on June 5, with a variable rate loan note alternative.

The Swiss have irrevocable acceptances in respect of 52.6 per cent of ICM's equity. ICM shares climbed 28p to 117p on the bid news. Besides its beverage side, Brauerer owns Datacolour and Applied Colour Systems which develop and make products for industrial colour data processing.

Fletcher King falls to £2.1m

FULL-YEAR pre-tax profits at Fletcher King, the surveyor and estate agent, fell 26 per cent to £2.88 million to £2.12 million, despite a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £9.17 million. Mr David Fletcher, the chairman, announced a final dividend of 4.7p, making the total payment 1.6p lower at 9p.

BAe acquires more of R&T

BALLAST Nedam, British Aerospace's Dutch construction business, has bought another building operation from the receivers of Rush & Tompkins, which collapsed in April. It has bought the Leeds office and plant and equipment for an undisclosed sum. About 20 Rush & Tompkins employees will be offered jobs.

EARNINGS AND DIVIDEND BETTER THAN FORECAST

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st March 1990

Turnover and other income £652m

Profit before tax £179m

Pro forma profit before tax £187m

Pro forma earnings per share 43.6p

Dividend per share 10.07p

Extract from the Preliminary Announcement

"The Board of Thames Water Plc has announced preliminary results for the year ended 31 March 1990. The period being reported on includes Thames' first seven months trading as a public limited company. For only the last four of these, the company enjoyed independent status with its own Stock Exchange listing."

As a result of the changes that have taken place, the results for the year ended 31 March 1990 are not directly comparable with those of the previous year, primarily because of changes in capital structure and the exclusion of National Rivers Authority activities from Thames' results in the year under review. However, the prospectus published at the time of privatisation contained a profit forecast for the year. Thames forecast a profit before tax and extraordinary items of £170 million (£178m on a pro forma basis), and a dividend per share of 9.72p. The profit before tax of £179 million (pro forma £187m) for the year to 31 March 1990 means that Thames has exceeded its forecast by a little more than 5%. The Board of Thames are recommending a dividend of 10.07p reflecting the company's progressive dividend policy."



Thames Water Plc, 14 Cavendish Place, London W1M 9DQ

Roy Watts
Chairman

Bass's new focus on Holiday Inn

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BASS, the brewing and hotels group, has announced more plans to streamline its Holiday Inn business in North America.

In April, the company said managed hotels were to be run separately from franchised hotels, some satellite manufacturing activities were to be closed, and rationalization of administration would result in more than 600 redundancies.

The rationalization costs are estimated at about \$20 million, with annual cost savings of about \$17 million.

Bass said it will strengthen the Holiday Inn brand by refocusing marketing, training and educational services. The company said the needs of franchisees are being given special attention.

Mr Ian Prosser, the chairman of Bass, said the Holiday Inn hotels chain ran at premiums of 4.8 per cent in occupancy and 20 per cent in room rates over its competitors in the middle-range sector in the first three months of the current year. The sector accounts for about 75 per cent of the hotel trade in the US.

While Holiday Inn will focus on the core brand, it will also exploit worldwide expansion opportunities with its Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza hotels and launch a drive to establish Garden Court Holiday Inn hotels in Europe.

Currently, the group has 1,576 hotels with a total of about 315,000 rooms. Over the next three to five years, Holiday Inn's plans for growth include a further 50,000 rooms worldwide.

There were no surprises at yesterday's group meeting in London. One analyst said: "The business has been milked for three years, but is still in good shape. However, the real benefits from the American Holiday Inns will be about two years down the line."

● Buckingham International, the hotels to nursing homes group controlled by the Jivraj family, is to buy four Crest hotels in Amsterdam from Bass for an undisclosed cash sum.

Some analysts estimate that the value of the deal is close to £20 million. The move follows the sale by Bass of the bulk of its Crest hotels to Trusthouse Forte for £300 million as it concentrates on the Holiday Inns chain. Bass shares eased 30p to £10.70.

\$200m fund for Europe

A \$200 million fund to provide venture capital to central and eastern Europe was announced by Salomon Brothers, the US securities house.

It is managing the fund on behalf of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a US government agency, and will include \$150 million raised by bonds placed in the US.

Caffyns tumbles

Caffyns, the motor dealer, saw pre-tax profits tumble from £2.06 million to £664,000 and earnings from 53.3p to 12.5p a share in the year ended March. Turnover was £130.9 million (£131.7 million). A maintained final dividend of 6.5p makes an unchanged 11.5p.

United Drug up

United Drug lifted pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £1.15 million (£1.08 million) in the six months to end-March. Turnover climbed 15 per cent to £28.5 million. Fully diluted earnings fell from 6.48p to 6.24p. The interim dividend is 1.75p (1.585p).

Kembrey rises

Kembrey lifted pre-tax profits 16.9 per cent to £429,000 in the year to end-March. Earnings rose from 0.36p to 1.02p. Once again, there is no dividend.

Brewery slumps

Taxable profits at Hoskins Brewery fell from £448,000 to £104,000 in the year to end-March. There is again no dividend.

Microvitec cuts 65 jobs to stem losses

By MELINDA WITTECK

MICROVITEC, the troubled manufacturer of computer colour monitors, has announced 65 redundancies among its support staff as part of a rationalization to save £1 million a year. The redundancies will cut the support staff to 298.

The USM company, which has fallen into trading losses this year after reporting a £488,000 slump in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million for 1989, blamed the "downturn in the electronics and computer peripherals market."

Mr James Bailey, who took over from Mr David Burnett last month as chairman and chief executive, said: "We are determined to reverse the fortunes of Microvitec by slimming it down and making it leaner and meaner. These

actions are necessary to return Microvitec to profit."

He said that Microvitec, which has also strengthened its management with the appointment of two marketing directors, will shortly benefit from reductions in component costs. The company's latest monitor, the Series 9, should also help to boost sales this year.

Mr Alan Melkerson, a former director of Gandalf Technology, becomes the vice-president of sales and marketing in North America, while Mr Robert Adams, formerly Northern Telecom's European vice-president, is to become the sales and marketing director.

Mr Bailey said that no more redundancies are planned "at this stage."

US property disposal nets \$30m for Power

POWER Corporation, the property developer based in Dublin, has sold its 40 per cent stake in the Two Rodeo Drive retail site in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, for \$30.5 million in cash, claimed to be the highest price paid per square foot for retail property in the US (Martin Waller writes).

The sale is likely to be followed by a deal which will buy out S&W Berisford, the debt-plagued British commodities group which also has 40 per cent. Power has more than doubled the \$14 million it paid last year for its stake with the sale to Kowa-Sogo, part of the Industrial Bank of Japan, at a yield of 5½ per cent.

The 136,000 sq ft development is set for completion in November, after which Berisford and the third partner, a local property developer, will also sell out.

Short arms in deep pockets

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Those innocent persons who thought a deposit with an authorised bank was as safe as the Bank of England have had their illusions shattered by the collapse into administration of British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank, a bank which has been reminded a number of times is solvent but possibly illiquid.

Never mind, they may have said to themselves, we are still protected under the Banking Deposit Scheme established under the 1987 Banking Act.

Last night, three days after the event, the Deposit Protection Board, a body which shares its postal address with the Bank of England, got around to clarifying just where depositors stand, and I hope the luckless clients are wearing Wellington boots. Where they are standing they need them.

It is likely to be months, rather than weeks, before they see any money back, and the terms of the scheme illustrate what a poor second the scheme comes to the alternative the Bank of England had at its disposal, support of a financial package which would have seen BCMB through its

liquidity problem. The biggest nonsense in the rules laid down is that while the deposit scheme comes into operation irrespective of the outcome of the administration, there can be no payments made unless and until the administrator's proposals have been approved by creditors.

The administrator has at least three months to put the proposals, longer if the Court agrees.

This means that money which might have been merely in transit from B&C's securities subsidiaries to the client, or perhaps deposited with BCMB when an investment sale was completed pending reinvestment, is locked in while the administration takes its course.

Given that BCMB is solvent and has some £90 million of shareholders' funds and reserves, it appears unlikely that the Board's short arms will have to reach far into its deep pockets. By the time the Board is ready to

pay, so may be the administrators. The scheme would be of much more use if, in cases such as BCMB, it were able to act quickly so that depositors who need ready funds can be given access to them.

The problem is immediate, but the solution is long term.

Cartel capers

A long hot summer looms for oilmen and those who own their shares. For until Opec sorts out yet another short-term mess of its own making, and the longer term demands imposed by the industrialization of the old Russian empire begin to assert themselves, crude oil

prices seem set for further weakness. There is serious concern that Saudi Arabia, notable among Opec members for sticking to output targets and for its willingness to act as a swing producer when the cartel's production exceeds budget, may be turning on the taps to bring quota-busters to heel. The Saudis denied it, but markets will continue to sweat while stocks are at their highest for eight years and rising.

It is clear that despite the pious words at the May Opec meeting, Iran and Iraq's output has risen, and that Kuwait has not cut by anything like the agreed amount. The last time producers lost control, in 1986, some mid-east crudes plunged below \$7 a barrel

and even high-quality North Sea oil dipped below \$10.

There is a long way to go before a repeat performance develops, but yesterday Brent blend for early loading, \$16.40 a barrel on Monday, briefly touched 18-month lows before recovering to \$14.80. The cartel will doubtless get its act together as the summer wears on and avert a full-blown price collapse. For whatever its awesome power a decade ago, it is no longer Opec that rules, but the market.

Watts' way

Roy Watts has always seen himself and Thames Water as the leaders in water privatization. At one time, he says, he appeared to be the only water company chairman in favour. It was particularly galling, therefore, for him to see Thames down at the bottom of the list of water share prices.

At flotation, Thames was the most keenly priced because it had the strongest customer base of potential investors as well as being seen as having special advantages — many of which were eliminated in the final regulatory regime. Once water shares were floated, however, local demand ceased to be an influence. Underlying growth, management and perceived vulnerability to takeover or the regulator's whim came to the fore. North West and Yorkshire had been more positive than others on dividend policy.

As the institutions and political worries took over, yield differentials were also squeezed. At flotation, they varied from 8.1 per cent (Thames) to 9.7 per cent (South West). By yesterday the spread had narrowed to between 6.8 and 7.7 per cent.

Mr Watts deserves to win more friends for Thames by trying to raise its share price and redress the initial dividend imbalance in the most direct way possible.

Since the rise above forecast is actually modest, he may even escape the wrath of the regulator for doing so.

TEMPUS

Reed aims to cast safety net

REED International shares have had a good run of late, advancing from about 380p since the start of May, so it should have been no surprise to see them drop 14p to 436p on some respectable full-year profits.

The figures came in the week the Government finally ruled on the break-up of the television programme listing duopoly. *TV Times*, acquired for an attractive price a year ago, has until next March before its comfortable position is eroded by competition.

No separate figures are given, but the country's second biggest television listings magazine is probably contributing upwards of £20 million a year to Reed's profits, which at the pre-tax level went ahead by 11 per cent to £302 million in the 12 months to end-March.

Travel Information Group, acquired at about the same time, is still earnings-dilutive but should be firing on all cylinders by the time *TV Times* starts to flag. The reshaping still leaves its mark, with £31.9 million of discontinued manufacturing activities in for last time.

Operating profit up 27 per cent, on turnover ahead 22.5 per cent, includes £25.7 million of exceptional gains, mainly from the sale and leaseback of the head office, but the pre-tax line is clipped by a £34 million interest turnaround.

Reed wants to spread its

exposure to the highly cyclical local newspaper and consumer magazines market in Britain by expansion overseas. But it remains vulnerable to an economic downturn in the UK. Assuming another fair slug of exceptional gains, it should reach £315 million pre-tax this time, but the shares, changing hands on a multiple of 11.3, look fully valued for now.

Electro-components

THE Electrocomponents juggernaut rolls on, with profits showing 22 years of unbroken growth. There was precious little sign of strain in the year to end-March, although many of the group's customers are having a hard time.

Such pain as there was came, unsurprisingly, in the distribution to retail division, a substantial supplier to the leading DIY sheds. Margins there were shredded, producing a loss of £200,000 against a profit last time of £4.5 million.

There are high hopes for the long term future of the distribution to commerce division, which provides supplies for the high-growth PC market. This division pushed sales ahead by 18 per cent, with most headway made in Europe, but profits edged only from £2 million to £2.1 million.

The group's powerhouse,

RS Group, which distributes components to industry, accounted for two-thirds of sales but 96 per cent of operating profit. The sales gain of 13 per cent was lower than last year, but with margins still advancing to 23.5 per cent, it is clear that customers are coping with high inventory costs by trimming stocks and relying more heavily on RS's same-day despatch service. Operating profit at RS advanced 14 per cent to £53.1 million. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £58.6 million against £52.7 million.

Assuming £62 million next time, the shares sell for about 10.8 times expected earnings per share — hardly dear given the record, the £17 million of net cash and the resilience to economic slow down.

The shares merit a better rating and will probably get it when further restructuring materializes and when the important launch of RS in Germany next year is showing positive results.

Erskine House

ERSKINE House is doing its own "1812". It is retreating from Moscow and USSR operations because profitable deals and confirmed orders have been replaced by hot air. There are more rewarding areas on which management time needs to be spent.

Despite the April warning,

year-end profits at £15.6 million against £15.1 million, and compared with earlier hopes of £20 million, still disappointed. The final is held at 4.35p making 6.65p (6.25p), but the real clue to the outlook will come later.

The cost of earlier development which doubled the group's size in recent years is becoming evident, and net earnings, under the weight of a higher average capital, are down 18 per cent at 19.7p a share. It could be a while before they stop falling, despite every chance that pre-tax profits could rise this year, so much bridge building of faith has to be done.

Last year's problems were more evident in the second half, but there has been a honourable, if not costly, exit from typewriters and word processors, and some cutback within the PC market. The extraordinary provisions total is £4.9 million taken below the line. Gearing is 50 per cent, and interest cover has slipped from more than 8 to 3.1 times.

There could be development opportunities in an enlarged Germany, but the US market could turn tougher, and though pre-tax profits might hit £17 million, net earnings could fall 10 per cent to 17.7p. On a prospective p/e of 6.8, the shares remain an act of faith until all the financial data is more encouraging.

The tough regime behind successful Body building



Anita Roddick: homilies for the shareholders

"The bigger you are, the more respectable you become," says Mrs Roddick. "Nobody believes you are successful unless you are financially successful." The City will put up with no end of whackiness as long as the financial formula which has yet to fail it stays in place.

Mr Roddick admits the group's success is due to a number of factors. He points to the quality of the products and their retail price, the attractiveness of the shops, the

strong environmental policy and the success of the franchising. "The franchisees are really committed to the business. They stand for and to the business. It would be uncomfortable to be a franchisee and not believe in what we believe in. Behind it all we are really quite aggressive," he says.

But the group has also been extremely lucky. A pioneer of environmentally friendly retailing, the Body Shop has a credibility envied by companies which have recently

jumped on the green bandwagon. It has been in a unique position to milk the popular concern for the environment. Luck has also been on the Body Shop's side when it comes to the competition. A rash of clones have emerged but none has dented the group's success.

Mr Roddick insists that the company's success transcends a fashionable concern for the environment. "Look at the Italians," he says. "They hate animals. If they're not eating them, they're wearing them and yet they're queuing up in our shops. Our growth rate in Italy is 80 per cent."

He is not worried about the group's Japanese-style rating. The shares at 450p are on 45 times earnings, having fallen from over 70. He sees at least another six years' growth for the company in Britain and says the business is embryonic overseas.

The Roddicks know the world is waiting for them to fall flat on their moisturized faces and are determined not to. But even they cannot walk on water. The group cannot afford to ignore the competition and must protect its green image at all costs. There are those who believe the company is vulnerable to a change in fashion and some still regard its success as a craze.

But as long as the balance between profits and principles remains, the City will support the Roddicks, baggy trousers and all. Yesterday's open offer was placed by lunchtime and even the news that organic growth so far this year is slightly lower than last year failed to dent enthusiasm.

Mr Roddick plays down the culture clash between the City and the company. "They respect us and we respect them even if we don't always agree with each other. We understand the need for the City and we've benefited hugely from the market."

It would seem that the last person not to succumb to the Roddick dream was the now infamous bank manager who refused a loan to the dungareed mum, trailing two toddlers, who wanted to open one little shop.

Gillian Bowditch

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New Directus for Angus

ANGUS MacDonald, aged 27, and until two weeks ago a fund manager with Martin Currie, the independent Scottish firm, is launching his own BRI-style business, monitoring the purchase and sale of shares by directors. He believes there will be some interest, citing as an example the sale of 1.3 million shares in Carlton Communications by Michael Green, the company's chairman, in December at 820p each. The shares are now worth 551p. MacDonald, previously an institutional salesman with Laing & Cruickshank, has set up Directus, which is based in Edinburgh, with Jeremy Salvesen, a member of the Salvesen food family, the only other partner. MacDonald said: "I subscribe to the BRI service and I think it's a brilliant concept, but it's not properly used. Mine will be targeted more at the private investor and I will include a lot more information such as p/e, yield cover, dividend dates, and total shareholdings so any change can be put in perspective." He already has 20 subscribers, including both his former employers, and wants to have at least 100 within 12 months. Referring to his system as a method of investment analysis, he argued: "Analysts get the future direction of share prices right 60 per cent of the time, at best, whereas direc-

Change of campus

WHEN it comes to links with the academic world, the City has always been closer to Cambridge than Oxford. But the tables could soon be turned thanks to the efforts of John Morrell, the executive chairman of Baring International, the international arm of the merchant bank. Morrell has been campaigning for a world-class business



"Here comes our dividend"

tors get it 90 per cent right. Seldom do they sell a significant number of shares and then the price goes up." He is charging £2,500 a year for the service, which generates two or three information sheets a day. "That's £5 a sheet, compared with a cost of more than £20,000 per circular at Salomon Brothers," he said.

THE proposed merger of Payless and Do-It-All, the DIY subsidiaries of Boots and WH Smith respectively, kept those City workers not out on the Epsom Downs yesterday amused for hours. Telephone lines between a number of broking firms were, I'm told, fully occupied as suggestions were exchanged for a new name for the combined group. The favourite, thus far, seems to be All Do Less.

Ritblat response

JOHN Ritblat, the usually cool and debonair chairman of British Land, who was left stranded on the docks at Cowes after the Conrad Ritblat Round the Island Race — when his personally-char-

tered hydrofoil left without him — is apparently more at home on the golf course than on a sea-faring vessel. For Ritblat, who was far from amused by my revelations of his weekend antics, has in a bid to counter what he has interpreted as bad publicity, now let it be known that a recent golfing clash with an unidentified colleague from the property world left him £50 better off. Driving into a bunker at the short 8th and confronted by a cliff of sand, Ritblat, whose stake in British Land is worth £3.6 million, was bet a modest £5 that he would not be able to get out. Proving his ability as a golfer, Ritblat promptly chipped his way out, leaving his opponent still struggling in the bunker. After 10 attempts, the somewhat embarrassed foe finally succeeded — and handed over £50 in cash.

A NEW financial PR firm came into being yesterday — the product of a double act between one-time Robert Maxwell adviser Paul Quade and ex-Mail on Sunday reporter John Rawlings. Rawlings, a Yorkshireman, who switched to the more lucrative world of PR three years ago to establish a Leeds office for Binns Cornwall, has agreed an "amicable divorce" for his northern office from its parent company. Yesterday, Quade, who will have a minority shareholding in the venture, Rawlings Financial, came on board to run the fledgling London operation.

Carol Leonard

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No.	Company	Group	Gate no.
1	Cheney (M)	Building, Roads	1
2	Liberty	Draper, Stores	2
3	Costain	Building, Roads	3
4	Bredon PLC	Building, Roads	4
5	Pock	Electricals	5
6	Lopes	Paper, Print, Adv	6
7	Hilldown (aa)	Foods	7
8	BM Gp	Industrials A-D	8
9	BBA	Industrials A-D	9
10	Grand Met (aa)	Beverages	10
11	Tomkins	Industrials S-Z	11
12	Whesoc	Industrials S-Z	12
13	Alecan	Drapery, Stores	13
14	Hanover Drive	Property	14
15	RHM (aa)	Foods	15
16	Adams	Industrials A-D	16
17	Rank Org (aa)	Industrials L-R	17
18	Auto Sec	Electricals	18
19	Stra Water	Water	19
20	Croda	Chemicals, Plastics	20
21	Boot (Henry)	Building, Roads	21
22	Jerome (S)	Textiles	22
23	AB Food (aa)	Foods	23
24	Mervale Moore	Property	24
25	Pworing	Building, Roads	25
26	Austin Reed	Drapery, Stores	26
27	Edbro	Industrials E-K	27
28	Ultramar (aa)	Oil, Gas	28
29	Vickers	Industrials S-Z	29
30	Booker	Foods	30
31	Granada (aa)	Industrials E-K	31
32	More O'Farrell	Paper, Print, Adv	32
33	Reylon	Industrials L-R	33
34	Renishaw	Industrials L-R	34
35	Ware Blake	Building, Roads	35
36	Honda Motor	Motor, Aircraft	36
37	Glywood (aa)	Industrials E-K	37
38	Roughsaw	Property	38
39	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	39
40	Farnell Elect	Industrials E-K	40
41	Chemring	Industrials A-D	41
42	Dych Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	42
43	Polly Pack (aa)	Foods	43
44	Watmough	Paper, Print, Adv	44

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

The £8,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was yesterday shared by eight winners. The following each receive £1,000: Mr Richard Budworth of Notting Hill, London; Mrs Kathleen Callum of Horsham, Surrey; Mrs Carol Turnbull of Surbiton, Surrey; Mr Albert Clifford of Albrighton, Wolverhampton; Mr James Chatterton of Poole, Dorset; Mrs Rosemary Shipley of Cranleigh, Surrey; Mr Peter Milčimovic of Manchester and Mr William Costello of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire.

1990	Int	Gross
High Low Stock	Price Chge	only Fed ytd ytd%

[illegible]

Year	Country	Share of GDP	Year	Country	Share of GDP
1990	China	100%	1990	China	100%
1991	China	100%	1991	China	100%
1992	China	100%	1992	China	100%
1993	China	100%	1993	China	100%
1994	China	100%	1994	China	100%
1995	China	100%	1995	China	100%
1996	China	100%	1996	China	100%
1997	China	100%	1997	China	100%
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2014	China	100%	2014	China	100%
2015	China	100%	2015	China	100%
2016	China	100%	2016	China	100%
2017	China	100%	2017	China	100%
2018	China	100%	2018	China	100%
2019	China	100%	2019	China	100%
2020	China	100%	2020	China	100%

95%	75%	Comp	91%	2005	85%	-X	11.2
95%	75%	Comp	107%	2005	95%	-X	11.8
116%	95%	Trans	124%	2004-05	105%	-X	10.8
94%	95%	Trans	85%	2007	76%	-X	10.7
89%	73%	Trans	111%	2007	100%	-X	10.7
111	95%	Trans	9%	2008	69%	-X	10.7
105%	75%	Trans	123%	2004-08	125%	-X	11.9
126%	105%	Trans	9%	2011	75%	-X	10.5
95%	75%	Trans	9%	2011	83%	-X	10.7
94	77%	Comp	57%	2008-12	55%	-X	10.8
95%	97%	Trans	73%	2012-15	72%	-X	10.6
92%	95%	Each	12%	2013-17	108	-X	10.8

35%	20%	Contra	31%	36%
41%	83%	Contra	6%	36%
41%	83%	Contra	6%	36%
35%	20%	Trans	3%	29%
35%	27%	Trans	31%	32%
35%	27%	War Ls				

INDEX-LINKED						
1705-110	Trans	L	2%	1992	115%	
1705-110	Trans	L	2%	1994	108	
1205-105%	Trans	L	2%	2000	150%	
1205-105%	Trans	L	2%	2001	129%	
1201-129%	Trans	L	2%	2004	125%	
1205-111%	Trans	L	2%	2008	150%	-N
137%-11%	Trans	L	2%	2008	119%	-N
1205-113%	Trans	L	2%	2008	121%	-N
1205-117%	Trans	L	2%	2013	100%	-N
100%-9%	Trans	L	2%	2016	100%	-N
115%-105%	Trans	L	2%	2016	100%	-N
112%-102%	Trans	L	2%	2024	91%	-N

1990	Price	Gross
High Low Company	Bid Offer	Change div p
		103

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 29. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day June 11. Settlement day June 18.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (α) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

[illegible][illegible]

318	Allegany	200	318	2	28	06	
319	Allegany	200	319	2	28	06	
320	Allegany	200	320	2	28	06	
321	Allegany	200	321	2	28	06	
322	Allegany	200	322	2	28	06	
323	Allegany	200	323	2	28	06	
324	Allegany	200	324	2	28	06	
325	Allegany	200	325	2	28	06	
326	Allegany	200	326	2	28	06	
327	Allegany	200	327	2	28	06	
328	Allegany	200	328	2	28	06	
329	Allegany	200	329	2	28	06	
330	Allegany	200	330	2	28	06	
331	Allegany	200	331	2	28	06	
332	Allegany	200	332	2	28	06	
333	Allegany	200	333	2	28	06	
334	Allegany	200	334	2	28	06	
335	Allegany	200	335	2	28	06	
336	Allegany	200	336	2	28	06	
337	Allegany	200	337	2	28	06	
338	Allegany	200	338	2	28	06	
339	Allegany	200	339	2	28	06	
340	Allegany	200	340	2	28	06	
341	Allegany	200	341	2	28	06	
342	Allegany	200	342	2	28	06	
343	Allegany	200	343	2	28	06	
344	Allegany	200	344	2	28	06	
345	Allegany	200	345	2	28	06	
346	Allegany	200	346	2	28	06	
347	Allegany	200	347	2	28	06	
348	Allegany	200	348	2	28	06	
349	Allegany	200	349	2	28	06	
350	Allegany	200	350	2	28	06	
351	Allegany	200	351	2	28	06	
352	Allegany	200	352	2	28	06	
353	Allegany	200	353	2	28	06	
354	Allegany	200	354	2	28	06	
355	Allegany	200	355	2	28	06	
356	Allegany	200	356	2	28	06	
357	Allegany	200	357	2	28	06	
358	Allegany	200	358	2	28	06	
359	Allegany	200	359	2	28	06	
360	Allegany	200	360	2	28	06	
361	Allegany	200	361	2	28	06	
362	Allegany	200	362	2	28	06	
363	Allegany	200	363	2	28	06	
364	Allegany	200	364	2	28	06	
365	Allegany	200	365	2	28	06	
366	Allegany	200	366	2	28	06	
367	Allegany	200	367	2	28	06	
368	Allegany	200	368	2	28	06	
369	Allegany	200	369	2	28	06	
370	Allegany	200	370	2	28	06	
371	Allegany	200	371	2	28	06	
372	Allegany	200	372	2	28	06	
373	Allegany	200	373	2	28	06	
374	Allegany	200	374	2	28	06	
375	Allegany	200	375	2	28	06	
376	Allegany	200	376	2	28	06	
377	Allegany	200	377	2	28	06	
378	Allegany	200	378	2	28	06	
379	Allegany	200	379	2	28	06	
380	Allegany	200	380	2	28	06	
381	Allegany	200	381	2	28	06	
382	Allegany	200	382	2	28	06	
383	Allegany	200	383	2	28	06	</

21s	15s	American Express	18s		7.2	2.7
301	235	Petco	274	-	7.2	2.7
303	236	Truck Stop	280	+30	17.3	5.2
151	105	Investment Admin	710	-10	50.0	6.0
131	108	Hanover M&M	124	145	8.0	8.3
235	107	MAN	122	+4	3.3	5.2
300	105	MAI	630	680	30.0	4.7
431	381	M & G	180	182	20.7	4.6
151	77	North West Coast	90	87		
101	62	Tyndal Hops	70	75	-1	7.3
25	24	York Trust	28	29	..	3.5

[illegible]

173	141	Alred Collette	157	180	+6	43	12
174	142	Alfred E. Smith	158	181	+3	44	13
81	87	Algo King	159	182	+4	45	14
175	143	Alvin J. Smith	160	183	+3	46	15
176	144	Alvin J. Smith	161	184	+4	47	16
177	145	Alvin J. Smith	162	185	+4	48	17
178	146	Alvin J. Smith	163	186	+4	49	18
179	147	Alvin J. Smith	164	187	+4	50	19
180	148	Alvin J. Smith	165	188	+4	51	20
181	149	Alvin J. Smith	166	189	+4	52	21
182	150	Alvin J. Smith	167	190	+4	53	22
183	151	Alvin J. Smith	168	191	+4	54	23
184	152	Alvin J. Smith	169	192	+4	55	24
185	153	Alvin J. Smith	170	193	+4	56	25
186	154	Alvin J. Smith	171	194	+4	57	26
187	155	Alvin J. Smith	172	195	+4	58	27
188	156	Alvin J. Smith	173	196	+4	59	28
189	157	Alvin J. Smith	174	197	+4	60	29
190	158	Alvin J. Smith	175	198	+4	61	30
191	159	Alvin J. Smith	176	199	+4	62	31
192	160	Alvin J. Smith	177	200	+4	63	32
193	161	Alvin J. Smith	178	201	+4	64	33
194	162	Alvin J. Smith	179	202	+4	65	34
195	163	Alvin J. Smith	180	203	+4	66	35
196	164	Alvin J. Smith	181	204	+4	67	36
197	165	Alvin J. Smith	182	205	+4	68	37
198	166	Alvin J. Smith	183	206	+4	69	38
199	167	Alvin J. Smith	184	207	+4	70	39
200	168	Alvin J. Smith	185	208	+4	71	40
201	169	Alvin J. Smith	186	209	+4	72	41
202	170	Alvin J. Smith	187	210	+4	73	42
203	171	Alvin J. Smith	188	211	+4	74	43
204	172	Alvin J. Smith	189	212	+4	75	44
205	173	Alvin J. Smith	190	213	+4	76	45
206	174	Alvin J. Smith	191	214	+4	77	46
207	175	Alvin J. Smith	192	215	+4	78	47
208	176	Alvin J. Smith	193	216	+4	79	48
209	177	Alvin J. Smith	194	217	+4	80	49
210	178	Alvin J. Smith	195	218	+4	81	50
211	179	Alvin J. Smith	196	219	+4	82	51
212	180	Alvin J. Smith	197	220	+4	83	52
213	181	Alvin J. Smith	198	221	+4	84	53
214	182	Alvin J. Smith	199	222	+4	85	54
215	183	Alvin J. Smith	200	223	+4	86	55
216	184	Alvin J. Smith	201	224	+4	87	56
217	185	Alvin J. Smith	202	225	+4	88	57
218	186	Alvin J. Smith	203	226	+4	89	58
219	187	Alvin J. Smith	204	227	+4	90	59
220	188	Alvin J. Smith	205	228	+4	91	60
221	189	Alvin J. Smith	206	229	+4	92	61
222	190	Alvin J. Smith	207	230	+4	93	62
223	191	Alvin J. Smith	208	231	+4	94	63
224	192	Alvin J. Smith	209	232	+4	95	64
225							

[illegible]

50	31	City Centre Race	45	●-4	1.7	2.5
307	31	French House	235	243	4.5	1.9
347	359	Ladwale (2x)	316	318	●●-1 1/2	13.1
75	59	Mount Chabane	67	●-1	1.7	2.5
65	40	Principal Hotels	37	42	2.0	2.7
120	85	Dunelm Hotel	101	102	3.6	3.0
226	146	Recon Hotels	175	174	0.8	4.4
308	675	Savoy Hotels 'A'	98	930	●	9.3
317	28	States	71	73	●	3.3
317	236	Thompson Pt (2x)	292	293	●-4	3.9

160	145	155	133	85
182	159	167	167	47
322	151	191	191	47
174	151	151	151	47
711	152	152	152	47
127	156	156	156	47
137	156	156	156	47
147	156	156	156	47
157	156	156	156	47
167	156	156	156	47
177	156	156	156	47
187	156	156	156	47
197	156	156	156	47
207	156	156	156	47
217	156	156	156	47
227	156	156	156	47
237	156	156	156	47
247	156	156	156	47
257	156	156	156	47
267	156	156	156	47
277	156	156	156	47
287	156	156	156	47
297	156	156	156	47
307	156	156	156	47
317	156	156	156	47
327	156	156	156	47
337	156	156	156	47
347	156	156	156	47
357	156	156	156	47
367	156	156	156	47
377	156	156	156	47
387	156	156	156	47
397	156	156	156	47
407	156	156	156	47
417	156	156	156	47
427	156	156	156	47
437	156	156	156	47
447	156	156	156	47
457	156	156	156	47
467	156	156	156	47
477	156	156	156	47
487	156	156	156	47
497	156	156	156	47
507	156	156	156	47
517	156	156	156	47
527	156	156	156	47
537	156	156	156	47
547	156	156	156	47
557	156	156	156	47
567	156	156	156	47
577	156	156	156	47
587	156	156	156	47
597	156	156	156	47
607	156	156	156	47
617	156	156	156	47
627	156	156	156	47
637	156	156	156	47
647	156	156	156	47
657	156	156	156	47
667	156	156	156	47
677	156	156	156	47
687	156	156	156	47
697	156	156	156	47
707	156	156	156	47
717	156	156	156	47
727	156	156	156	47
737	156	156	156	47
747	156	156	156	47
757	156	156	156	47
767	156	156	156	47
777	156	156	156	47
787	156	156	156	47
797	156	156	156	47
807	156	156	156	47
817	156	156	156	47
827	156	156	156	47
837	156	156	156	47
847	156	156	156	47
857	156	156	156	47
867	156	156	156	47
87				

289	242	AB Econ	250	257	-	23.0
225	281	Adelphi Comp	218	278	-	28.1
78	34	Alto	56	618	-	51.0
36	36	Alphamex	89	8	-	8.9
78	45	Ampex (m)	77	89	+1	1.1
94	67	AT Group	70	52	+2	2.2
94	67	AT Group	70	52	+2	2.2
37	37	Asotec	51	55	-	4.4
243	253	Auto Auto	304	396	+3	3.9
219	189	Baile (Japan)	156	154	-	1.2
228	228	Barnett & Fozzard	43	45	+2	2.2
428	383	BICC (m)	448	453	0	0.5
222	172	Bick	188	187	-	0.1
104	625	Birkland	107	625	-	51.7
211	168	Blackings	207	210	+1	1.3
316	343	Bo Telecom (m)	388	286	-6	-15.6

PLATINUM
© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +43 points
Claimants should ring 0254-5...

OVERALL		RANK		PERCENT		PERCENT	
1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
815	488	Autoblog	605	625	-	22.7	17
85	540	Autoblog	58	57	+2	2.0	3.5
152	105	Champion	708	111	-	11.0	10.1
128	105	Fisher (Jamaica)	277	277	+1	5.5	4.9
326	242	Knickerbocker (N.Y.)	291	291	+1	14.7	7.5
326	242	Knickerbocker (N.Y.)	339	346	-	11.6	3.8
350	325	On A	330	330	-	71.8	
99	78	Shane Darcy	320	320	-	6.7	

276	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	80
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113	70	Atlanta	100	107	+3	44	42
114	80	Ashe	87	87	0	43	43
115	90	Baltimore	97	97	0	43	43
116	100	Boston	107	107	0	43	43
117	110	Buffalo	117	117	0	43	43
118	120	Calgary	127	127	0	43	43
119	130	Chicago	137	137	0	43	43
120	140	Cincinnati	147	147	0	43	43
121	150	Cleveland	157	157	0	43	43
122	160	Colorado	167	167	0	43	43
123	170	Dallas	177	177	0	43	43
124	180	Denver	187	187	0	43	43
125	190	Detroit	197	197	0	43	43
126	200	Edmonton	207	207	0	43	43
127	210	Evansville	217	217	0	43	43
128	220	Fort Worth	227	227	0	43	43
129	230	Galveston	237	237	0	43	43
130	240	Houston	247	247	0	43	43
131	250	Indianapolis	257	257	0	43	43
132	260	Jacksonville	267	267	0	43	43
133	270	Kansas City	277	277	0	43	43
134	280	Las Vegas	287	287	0	43	43
135	290	Los Angeles	297	297	0	43	43
136	300	Memphis	307	307	0	43	43
137	310	Miami	317	317	0	43	43
138	320	Minneapolis	327	327	0	43	43
139	330	Montreal	337	337	0	43	43
140	340	New York	347	347	0	43	43
141	350	Oakland	357	357	0	43	43
142	360	Oklahoma City	367	367	0	43	43
143	370	Omaha	377	377	0	43	43
144	380	Orlando	387	387	0	43	43
145	390	Philadelphia	397	397	0	43	43
146	400	Pittsburgh	407	407	0	43	43
147	410	Portland	417	417	0	43	43
148	420	Raleigh	427	427	0	43	43
149	430	San Antonio	437	437	0	43	43
150	440	San Diego	447	447	0	43	43
151	450	San Francisco	457	457	0	43	43
152	460	Seattle	467	467	0	43	43
153	470	St. Louis	477	477	0	43	43
154	480	Tampa	487	487	0	43	43
155	490	Toronto	497	497	0	43	43
156	500	Wash. D.C.	507	507	0	43	43
157	510	Wichita	517	517	0	43	43
158	520	Yakima	527	527	0	43	43

76	47	HeadGem	43	50	-	3.2
197	158	Lambert Horwath	183	168		13.3
141	90	Pitzard Garner	102	110	-2	8.1
140	25	Strong & Fisher	33	36	+1	8.2
315	300	Style	305	325	+7	9.3

36	17	Arch	18	20	21	+6	153	15
37	18	Arch	20	21	22	+6	154	16
38	19	Arch	21	22	23	+6	155	17
39	20	Arch	22	23	24	+6	156	18
40	21	Arch	23	24	25	+6	157	19
41	22	Arch	24	25	26	+6	158	20
42	23	Arch	25	26	27	+6	159	21
43	24	Arch	26	27	28	+6	160	22
44	25	Arch	27	28	29	+6	161	23
45	26	Arch	28	29	30	+6	162	24
46	27	Arch	29	30	31	+6	163	25
47	28	Arch	30	31	32	+6	164	26
48	29	Arch	31	32	33	+6	165	27
49	30	Arch	32	33	34	+6	166	28
50	31	Arch	33	34	35	+6	167	29
51	32	Arch	34	35	36	+6	168	30
52	33	Arch	35	36	37	+6	169	31
53	34	Arch	36	37	38	+6	170	32
54	35	Arch	37	38	39	+6	171	33
55	36	Arch	38	39	40	+6	172	34
56	37	Arch	39	40	41	+6	173	35
57	38	Arch	40	41	42	+6	174	36
58	39	Arch	41	42	43	+6	175	37
59	40	Arch	42	43	44	+6	176	38
60	41	Arch	43	44	45	+6	177	39
61	42	Arch	44	45	46	+6	178	40
62	43	Arch	45	46	47	+6	179	41
63	44	Arch	46	47	48	+6	180	42
64	45	Arch	47	48	49	+6	181	43
65	46	Arch	48	49	50	+6	182	44
66	47	Arch	49	50	51	+6	183	45
67	48	Arch	50	51	52	+6	184	46
68	49	Arch	51	52	53	+6	185	47
69	50	Arch	52	53	54	+6	186	48
70	51	Arch	53	54	55	+6	187	49
71	52	Arch	54	55	56	+6	188	50
72	53	Arch	55	56	57	+6	189	51
73	54	Arch	56	57	58	+6	190	52
74	55	Arch	57	58	59	+6	191	53
75	56	Arch	58	59	60	+6	192	54
76	57	Arch	59	60	61	+6	193	55
77	58	Arch	60	61	62	+6	194	56
78	59	Arch	61	62	63	+6	195	57
79	60	Arch	62	63	64	+6	196	58
80	61	Arch	63	64	65	+6	197	59
81	62	Arch	64	65	66	+6	198	60
82	63	Arch	65	66	67	+6	199	61
83	64	Arch	66	67	68	+6	200	62
84	65	Arch	67	68	69	+6	201	63
85	66	Arch	68	69	70	+6	202	64
86	67	Arch	69	70	71	+6	203	65
87	68	Arch	70	71	72	+6	204	66
88	69	Arch	71	72	73	+6	205	67
89	70	Arch	72	73	74	+6	206	68
90	71	Arch	73	74	75	+6	207	69
91	72	Arch	74	75	76	+6	208	70
92	73	Arch	75	76	77	+6	209	71
93	74	Arch	76	77	78	+6	210	72
94	75	Arch	77	78	79	+6	211	73
95	76	Arch	78	79	80	+6	212	74
96								

853	950	BAY (m)	847	953	-5	40
185	134	PJ Carroll	130	137	-4	16
734	587	Hochman 'B' (m)	723	735	+1	16

533	287	309	329	349	369	389	409	429	449	469	489	509	529	549	569	589	609	629	649	669	689	709	729	749	769	789	809	829	849	869	889	909	929	949	969	989	1009	1029	1049	1069	1089	1109	1129	1149	1169	1189	1209	1229	1249	1269	1289	1309	1329	1349	1369	1389	1409	1429	1449	1469	1489	1509	1529	1549	1569	1589	1609	1629	1649	1669	1689	1709	1729	1749	1769	1789	1809	1829	1849	1869	1889	1909	1929	1949	1969	1989	2009	2029	2049	2069	2089	2109	2129	2149	2169	2189	2209	2229	2249	2269	2289	2309	2329	2349	2369	2389	2409	2429	2449	2469	2489	2509	2529	2549	2569	2589	2609	2629	2649	2669	2689	2709	2729	2749	2769	2789	2809	2829	2849	2869	2889	2909	2929	2949	2969	2989	3009	3029	3049	3069	3089	3109	3129	3149	3169	3189	3209	3229	3249	3269	3289	3309	3329	3349	3369	3389	3409	3429	3449	3469	3489	3509	3529	3549	3569	3589	3609	3629	3649	3669	3689	3709	3729	3749	3769	3789	3809	3829	3849	3869	3889	3909	3929	3949	3969	3989	4009	4029	4049	4069	4089	4109	4129	4149	4169	4189	4209	4229	4249	4269	4289	4309	4329	4349	4369	4389	4409	4429	4449	4469	4489	4509	4529	4549	4569	4589	4609	4629	4649	4669	4689	4709	4729	4749	4769	4789	4809	4829	4849	4869	4889	4909	4929	4949	4969	4989	5009	5029	5049	5069	5089	5109	5129	5149	5169	5189	5209	5229	5249	5269	5289	5309	5329	5349	5369	5389	5409	5429	5449	5469	5489	5509	5529	5549	5569	5589	5609	5629	5649	5669	5689	5709	5729	5749	5769	5789	5809	5829	5849	5869	5889	5909	5929	5949	5969	5989	6009	6029	6049	6069	6089	6109	6129	6149	6169	6189	6209	6229	6249	6269	6289	6309	6329	6349	6369	6389	6409	6429	6449	6469	6489	6509	6529	6549	6569	6589	6609	6629	6649	6669	6689	6709	6729	6749	6769	6789	6809	6829	6849	6869	6889	6909	6929	6949	6969	6989	7009	7029	7049	7069	7089	7109	7129	7149	7169	7189	7209	7229	7249	7269	7289	7309	7329	7349	7369	7389	7409	7429	7449	7469	7489	7509	7529	7549	7569	7589	7609	7629	7649	7669	7689	7709	7729	7749	7769	7789	7809	7829	7849	7869	7889	7909	7929	7949	7969	7989	8009	8029	8049	8069	8089	8109	8129	8149	8169	8189	8209	8229	8249	8269	8289	8309	8329	8349	8369	8389	8409	8429	8449	8469	8489	8509	8529	8549	8569	8589	8609	8629	8649	8669	8689	8709	8729	8749	8769	8789	8809	8829	8849	8869	8889	8909	8929	8949	8969	8989	9009	9029	9049	9069	9089	9109	9129	9149	9169	9189	9209	9229	9249	9269	9289	9309	9329	9349	9369	9389	9409
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15	100%	140%	Anglen Water	135	157	-3
24	120	146	Northampton	171	174	+3
-	172	137	North West	136	159	+23
-	180	123	Severn Trust	135	139	+4
25	171	128	Stam Water	133	137	+4
18	171	121	Severn West	180	184	+4
-	171	127	Thames Water	145	146	+1%
-	186	142	Walsb Water	165	168	+2
-	180	137	Wexham Water	157	162	+2
35	186	142	Yorkshire Water	159	163	+1
10.9			ET/SEWAGE			
-			Package Unit	1518		+5

● Ex dividend ■ Ex all b Forecast dividend ■ Interm payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures Forecast earnings ■ Ex other r Ex rights ■ Ex scrip c

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● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. i Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). **Dealing or valuation days:** (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 89.3 (day's range 89.2-89.3).

Market rates for June 6				
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.9551-1.9552	1.9575-1.9585	0.25-0.49p	2.81-2.79p
London	1.9751-1.9752	1.9785-1.9795	0.25-0.49p	2.81-2.79p
Amsterdam	3.1983-3.2000	3.2033-3.2038	11-14p	51-54p
Frankfurt	10.50-10.52	10.53-10.55	11-14p	51-54p
Copenhagen	10.85-10.86	10.84-10.86	11-14p	51-54p
Dublin	1.0610-1.0620	1.0645-1.0655	42-37p	115-105p
Frankfurt	2.0405-2.0502	2.0406-2.0408	11-14p	45-46p
London	1.9751-1.9752	1.9785-1.9795	0.25-0.49p	2.81-2.79p
Paris	172-176.82	176.03-176.82	15-20p	30-30p
Rio de Janeiro	2.8603-2.8604	2.8603-2.8604	30-31p	10-10p
Sao Paulo	10.9245-10.9246	10.9406-10.9408	30-31p	10-10p
Stockholm	1.9587-1.9592	1.9591-1.9592	41p	111-111p
Tokyo	10.0778-10.0780	10.0778-10.0780	45p-24p	61p-55p
Vienna	257.1-257.12	257.1-257.12	41p	61p-55p
Yokohama	20.0001-20.0044	20.0037-20.0044	111-107p	33-30p
Zurich	2.4114-2.4114	2.4114-2.4114	11-14p	31p-31p
<p>Argentina peso* 9427.50-9428.00</p> <p>Australia dollar 2.1514-2.1514</p> <p>Bahrian dinar 0.031-0.031</p> <p>Brazil cruzeiro* 62.360-62.360</p> <p>Canada dollar 0.707-0.707</p> <p>Finland markka 6.6995-6.6995</p> <p>French franc 6.55-6.55</p> <p>Hong Kong dollar 11.100-11.100</p> <p>India rupee 20.25-20.25</p> <p>Korean dollar 400-400</p> <p>Malaysia ringgit 4.6974-4.6974</p> <p>Mexico peso 4700-4700</p> <p>New Zealand dollar 1.5756-1.5756</p> <p>New Zealand dollar 1.5756-1.5756</p> <p>S Africa rand 2.1199-2.1199</p> <p>Singapore dollar 1.4585-1.4585</p> <p>Sri Lanka rupee 120.00-120.00</p> <p>U A E dirham 6.1475-6.1475</p>				

15.201 per cent. Spot Silver: \$5.07-5.09 (£3.005-3.020)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100					
Jun 80	3462.0	3470.0	3450.0	3470.0	54294
Jun 81	3462.0	3470.0	3450.0	3470.0	570
Jun 82	3462.0	3470.0	3450.0	3470.0	10
Three Month Sterling					
Jun 80	52.91	52.91	52.91	52.91	153222
Jun 81	52.91	52.91	52.91	52.91	10
Jun 82	52.91	52.91	52.91	52.91	10
Three Month Eurodollar					
Jun 80	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	40248
Jun 81	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	10
Jun 82	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	10
Three Month Euro Dm					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
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Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Jun 82	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10
Open					
Jun 80	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	12250
Jun 81	91.71	91.74	91.71	91.73	10

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Pioneers who are cleaning up

Chemical engineering arose from the needs of the oil and chemical industries, which together still employ the largest number of chemical engineers. An analysis of graduates from the Cambridge chemical engineering department between 1987 and 1989 shows that 27 per cent joined the chemical industry, 17 per cent were employed by oil companies, and only 7 per cent studied for higher degrees. The others went into biotechnology — including the traditional areas of food processing and brewing — minerals processing, business, banking and general management.

Chemical engineers fill many roles in processing industries. They research new products and processes and develop their industrial application. They build and commission installations such as oil rigs. New technologies pioneered by chemical engineers include the development of composite materials such as carbon or glass fibres, and the emerging field of biomedical engineering, in which they help to design artificial hearts, for instance.

Controlling environmental pollution is near the top of the agenda. Cleaning up effluents from the oil, chemical and power industries is among the main challenges for the 1990s, and chemical engineers are leading the search for non-polluting, environment-friendly industrial processes. Every issue is watched over by the Institution of Chemical Engineers, a UK-based

The profession produced by industry is also concerned today with saving the environment, David Rudnick writes



Making it work: catalysts are produced at a Shell factory for the oil, gas and chemical industries

professional body with a worldwide membership of nearly 20,000. The institution believes a public relations job needs to be done for chemical engineering, "the least accessible, and therefore most misunderstood, of the major engineering branches".

The institution's president, Robin Paul, who heads chemicals

manufacturers Albright & Wilson, believes his organization's main problem is "public perception of the industry it serves, which does not recognize chemical engineers' contribution to society and is suspicious of the chemical and oil industry as being environmentally threatening".

He says: "This does not strongly

encourage young people to come into chemical engineering, but I want to turn that perception around and show young people interested in this area and wanting to contribute that they can best do so from the inside, through working in the industry."

Mr Paul accepts there is still scope for improving safety stan-

dards, but he is optimistic that the intensification and consequently smaller size of chemical plants coming into operation will "bring intrinsically greater safety since smaller units give a smaller problem if things go wrong".

Safety and environmental issues overlap, of course. Mr Paul describes chemical engineering as "the green discipline that can think out and achieve environmental advances". He adds: "As a businessman I do not like single-issue politics. The institution will have a broad spectrum of passion. Environmental issues are not as simple as they are portrayed. They are not black and white issues."

The institution's general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, sees the environmental challenge as the prime issue. "Chemical engineering," he says, "can remedy the failings of the past and work for a better future. To ensure that tomorrow's chemical engineers understand their personal responsibility for environmental issues, they form an integral part of our accredited degree course and of the code of ethical conduct we demand from our members."

He too draws a line on environmentalism: "We cannot live on the basis of a Prince Charles organic family routine. If we are to feed the world's growing population, agro-chemicals must be used, and chemical engineering has a major role to play." That role is being played on an increasingly international stage and the institution, Dr Evans says, is adapting.



Trevor Evans: the challenge



Robin Paul: green discipline

"We can no longer work by being solely a qualifying body in the UK," he says. "We must be as international as the people we have as members. The institution's products — its training and education courses, conferences, magazines and journals — must all reflect the best international practices."

"We are the custodians of the profession, but we are a business too, with an annual turnover approaching £4 million. We rely on income from our trading activities as publisher, training agency and provider of courses to pay our staff of 75."

"Only 20 per cent of our revenue comes from membership subscription, and the proportion is still falling."

Dr Evans sees the institution performing a balancing act, ensuring a commercial return on profitable activities to pay for the

inevitable loss-making items such as the schools liaison unit. This programme is intended to stimulate schoolchildren's interest in chemical engineering as a career. It is heavily subsidized by industry, which, like the institution, is concerned at the shortage of qualified chemical engineers in industry.

They are the highest paid in the profession, but their academic salaries are uncompetitive and are being increasingly shored up by industrial fellowships.

As 1992 approaches, the institution is preparing for battle. Mr Paul says: "There will be new European standards and codes of conduct to be met, but integration of chemical engineering across Europe will enhance the effectiveness of the discipline. Society is demanding higher standards, and chemical engineering will have to meet them."

The Institution of Chemical Engineers has an unassuming address in Railway Terrace, Rugby, Warwickshire, but its membership and concerns are world-wide (David Rudnick writes). The institution, formed in 1922 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1957, is a learned society and a qualifying body, keeping members in touch with developments.

Membership is select but hardly narrow. Members may be chartered chemical engineers, or graduates and students on accredited chemical engineering degree courses. They may be incorporated engineers or colleagues from other disciplines. They include design engineers, consultants, general managers, academics, engineers in research and development, and directors of large companies. To maintain balance be-

tween boardroom and laboratory, the presidency traditionally alternates between industry and academe. The current president, Robin Paul, is deputy chairman and managing director of the chemicals company Albright & Wilson. Last year's president, Professor Geoffrey Hewitt, alternated between the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell and Imperial College, London, before finally settling at Imperial.

This duality symbolizes the institution's role as a bridge between industry and academe, sometimes with research as common ground. John Moss, the institution's industry liaison manager, stands at the interface. He is

proud of the institution's programme of continuing education, the largest in Europe. Between 140 and 150 postgraduate courses, lasting four to five days, are run on specialist chemical engineering subjects.

The institution's membership has climbed to 19,000, of whom nearly 5,000 are from outside the British Isles. The institution can claim to be the largest chemical engineering body in the world outside North America.

In preparation for 1992, corporate members will be able to register for the title European Engineer (Eur Ing), increasing their chances of working in Europe. The institution has close contact

with the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and participates in its scientific and technical working parties.

Safety and loss — or less euphemistically, accident — prevention concerns chemical engineers everywhere. The institution's *Loss Prevention*

Bulletin is gaining international recognition for its articles and case histories on accidents, near misses and suggestions for avoiding repetitions. A recent issue contained articles on "a gas leakage that taught a valuable lesson", a "near miss incident

with a tanker" due to bad labelling, and "caustic solution splashed into filter's eyes", stressing the importance of a good work permit system.

Use of the term loss prevention reminds companies of the commercial as well as the physical price of inadequate safety. The institution provides the secretariat for the International Process Safety Group, which considers safety "in a closed environment", where companies can freely discuss sensitive matters.

Safety is the business of Fiona Dendy, the technical director. She says the institution has an important role as "a neutral disseminator" of case studies of accidents or

near misses submitted confidentially by companies and published anonymously, after prior peer group review, in the *Loss Prevention Bulletin*.

The emphasis on safety is widely apparent. The loss prevention department produces hazard workshop modules, including two engagingly acronymed *Hazop* (hazard and operability studies) and *Hazan* (hazard analysis), and there are videos, computer simulations and slide modules suitable for training programmes. Recent videos have dealt with liquefied petroleum gas handling and safer piping.

One of the institution's most interesting programmes is the physical properties data service (PPDS), run by Dr

Beryl Edmonds. This is a computer package that provides a guide to the chemical reaction likely to result from mixing two substances. The process consists of running models through a computer to give an answer.

PPDS was developed by the National Engineering Laboratory, but it is being marketed by the institution. Its clients include BP, ICI and other large corporates.

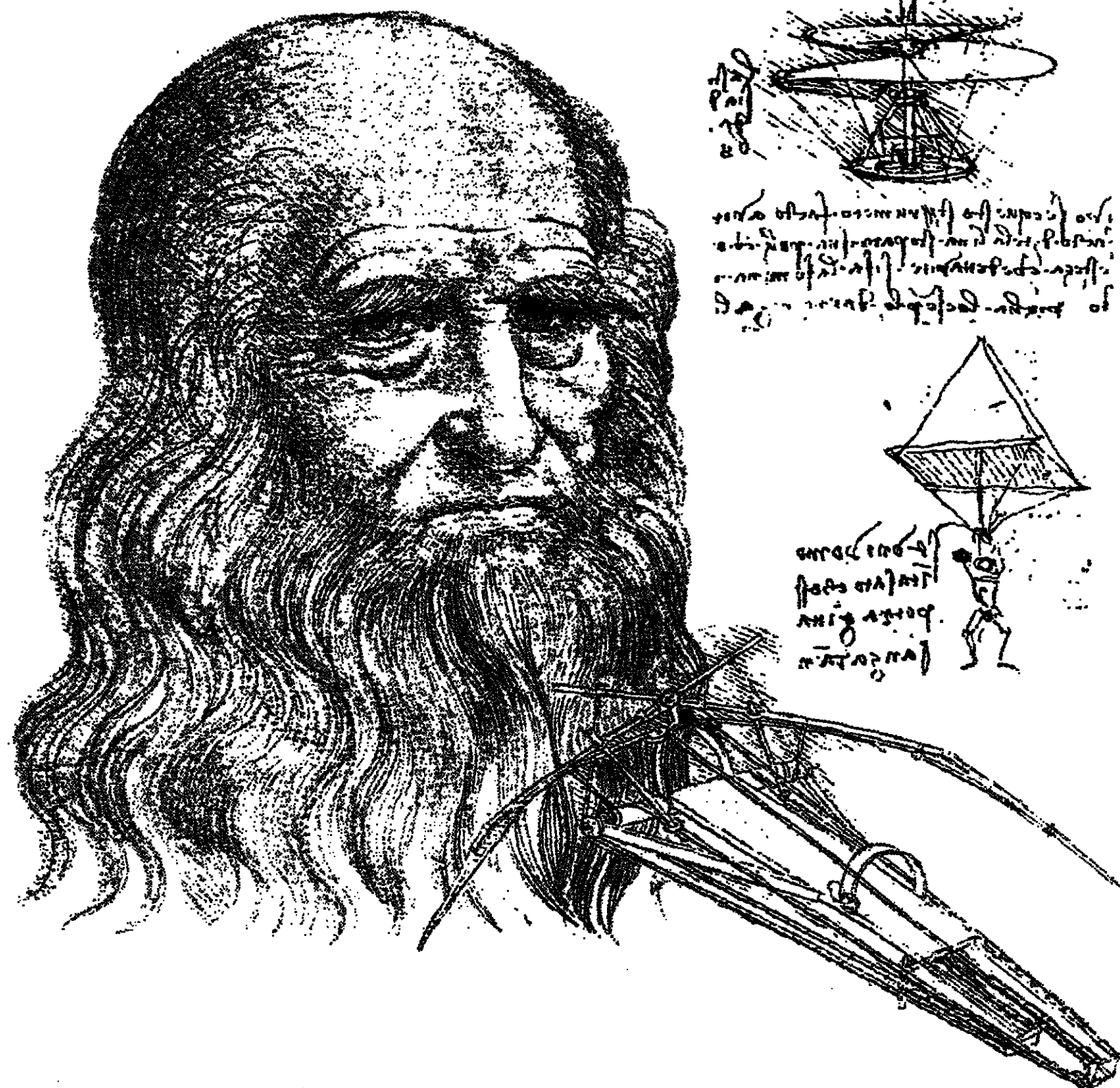
The institution is becoming more commercially aware, attuned to the spirit of the times. It has also become much more image-conscious. It recently adopted a new logo, a formula showing the institution harnessed to chemistry working to the power of engineering.

Industrialists and academics united



Officials (from left): Hewitt, Edmonds, Dendy

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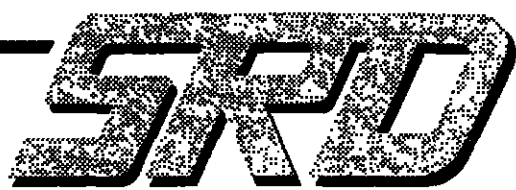
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On the threshold of a new scientific age

Biochemical engineering, Nick Nuttall writes, holds the promise of environmental improvement and benefits for industries as diverse as medical production and electronics



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AEA TECHNOLOGY

A decision is likely in the next few days on whether Britain is to have an interdisciplinary research centre for biochemical engineering, an emerging field of chemical and process engineering.

The possibility of a national laboratory, to join the handful of other science and engineering laboratories, emphasizes the growing importance of novel organisms and plant and animal cells in the future of everything from pharmaceuticals to pest control.

"We are standing on the threshold of a new age," says Professor Peter Dunnill, of University College London's biochemical engineering department.

As with most developments in chemical and process engineering, there is a demand for promising laboratory developments - in this case, the transferring of part of the genetic code of one organism to give another a novel characteristic - to be mass-produced.

Yet the design and engineering difficulties present enormous technical problems. Traditional pumping, wide temperature variations including reheating and freezing, and the high pressures used in separation can ruin the ability of these organisms or cells to perform as tiny drug or "chemical-producing factories".

Professor Dunnill explains: "If you tinker with an organism, it is often not as strong, or is deprived of a nutrient it needs. If you put the organism into a fermenter,

it can fall to pieces." In addition, proteins produced have the habit of folding. Unfolding them is tough enough in the laboratory but can be enormously difficult on an industrial scale.

Dr George Hill, of Loughborough University, says there are also difficulties in commercially extracting the organism's products, which may be produced internally or externally.

Filtering of air and sterilizing waste products are other challenges to the design of such large-scale plants.

However, according to Professor Dunnill, the possibilities are exciting. The drug thalidomide, produced by a chemical process, caused horrendous defects mainly because of the way it was made. Mirror images, or so-called right-hand and left-hand chemicals, with different biological effects, were unwittingly manufactured. Biochemical engineering, in which flammable solvents are used, offers the possibility of ending this potentially hazardous effect.

To achieve this UCL will start building an advanced centre for biochemical engineering in October, with £1.28 million from ICI, Shell, Smith Kline Beecham, Unilever and the Government.

Dr Hill says one of the other challenges in biochemical engineering will be the designing of processes and better filtration membranes to extract various proteins and products from the same plant.

In Caen, France, scientists at the Grand National Accel-



Burning issue: Sheffield University's Professor Jim Swithenbank and the advanced incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit, on which he and his team are running tests

erator for Heavy Ions (Ganil) have harnessed the micro and sub-microscopic hole-punching power of a cyclotron to develop more precise designer membranes. At Loughborough, in conjunction with the medical school, chemical engineers are trying to discover whether human blood vessel cells are able to sieve

particles from fluids outside the body. The natural membranes promise to clog less and be more selective.

Dr Hill says: "Some biotechnology companies are losing a lot of product because what they are getting out is so valuable that it does not matter at the moment. But this is likely to change."

Even the electronics industry stands to benefit from these developments in biochemical engineering, Professor Dunnill says.

Micro-organisms, in trying to detoxify their environments when flooded with heavy metals, produce natural organic semiconductors as a result.

Climbing the precipice of discovery

THE ATTEMPT to generate power more efficiently and cleanly has come under close scrutiny. At Sheffield University, Professor Jim Swithenbank, of the chemical engineering and fuel technology department, sits surrounded by printouts detailing computer modelling tests he is running on power stations and power packs to maximize efficiency and minimize pollution (Nick Nuttall writes).

"The ones in front of me," he says, "are of the Sheffield incinerator, a 30-megawatt unit and one of the most successful of its kind in the world."

His team, which includes a young research student who is an amateur climber, are comparing mathemat-

ical models of the incinerator, which burns domestic and commercial waste to heat 10,000 houses and premises in the area, with physical measurements in an effort to improve the process design.

"My research student has been probing for temperatures, concentration levels and pollution as she abseils down the side of the incinerator," Professor Swithenbank says. "We then compare these with our models. We are getting excellent agreement between the two, which shows us the design can be modified to improve efficiency by several per cent."

Sheffield's other projects include studies into mixing water with bitu-

men to make it a convenient source of fuel. The reserves of hydrocarbon in Venezuela alone compare with oil reserves in the rest of the world.

Professor Swithenbank is also particularly excited at the arrival of a Europe-wide scheme called Euroflow - European Research Community on Flow, Turbulence and Combustion, in which chemical engineers and fuel technologists, using advanced computer systems, are linking with test models to improve designs.

Professor Swithenbank believes the spin-offs into other areas of chemical engineering will be enormous. "He says: 'If you can model combustion, you can model more or less every

other chemical engineering process.' A new system, which has been under development by H & G Engineering, of Croydon, Surrey, for four years highlights other developments. Clean Power Generation (CPG) is a patented development of a process in which fossil fuels are turned into a gas by pressurized oxygen, cleaned, then burnt to drive a turbine.

John Griffiths, the company's technology development manager, says the plant, which harnesses proven equipment, can cut sulphur dioxide emissions to a negligible two to three parts a million and oxides of nitrogen to fewer than 10 parts per million.

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water industry

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offshore structures

first large lift-installed jacket in the UK North Sea - Shell Kittiwake

nuclear waste management

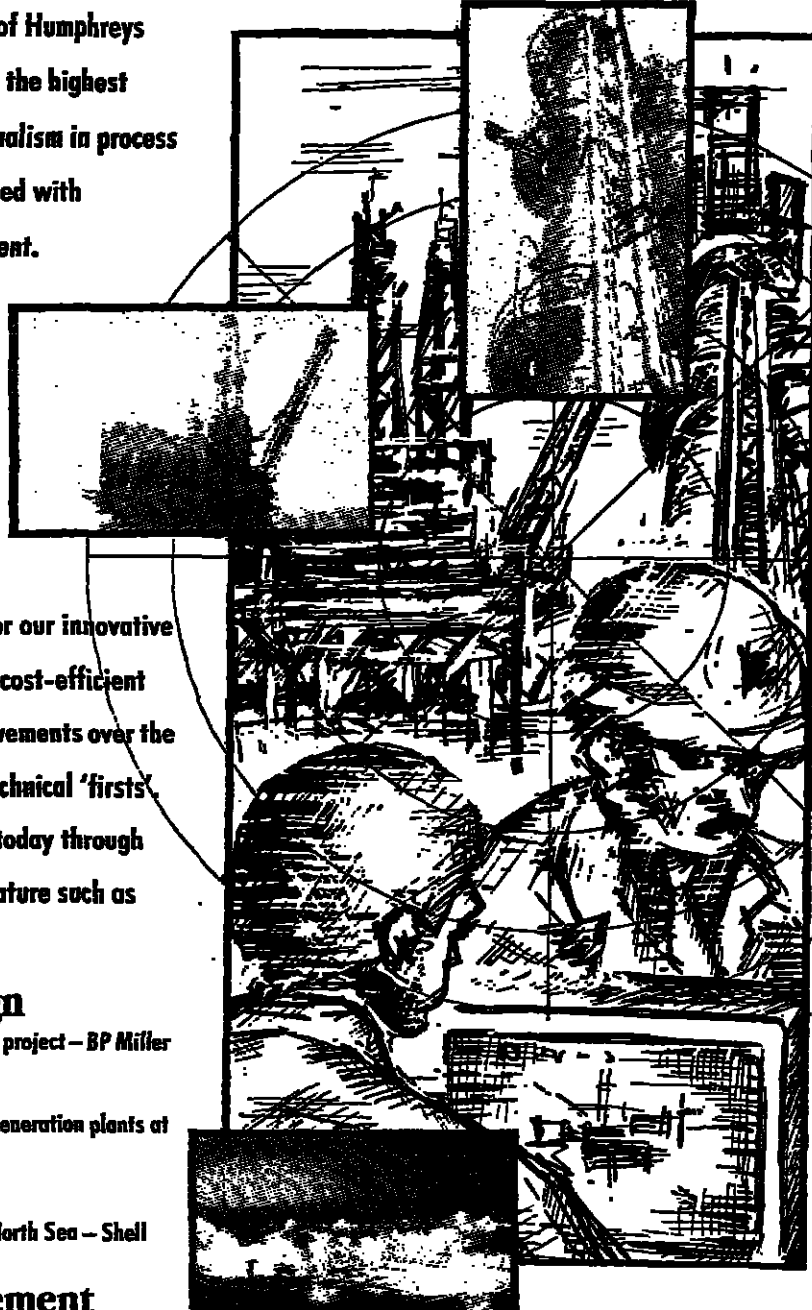
engineering and construction of multi-million pound nuclear waste packaging and encapsulation plant for BNFL at Sellafield

power generation

Clean Power Generation (CPG) - first British process for low effluent power generation from gasified fuels

natural gas

first remotely-controlled gas platforms in North Sea - detail design and procurement - BP Amethyst



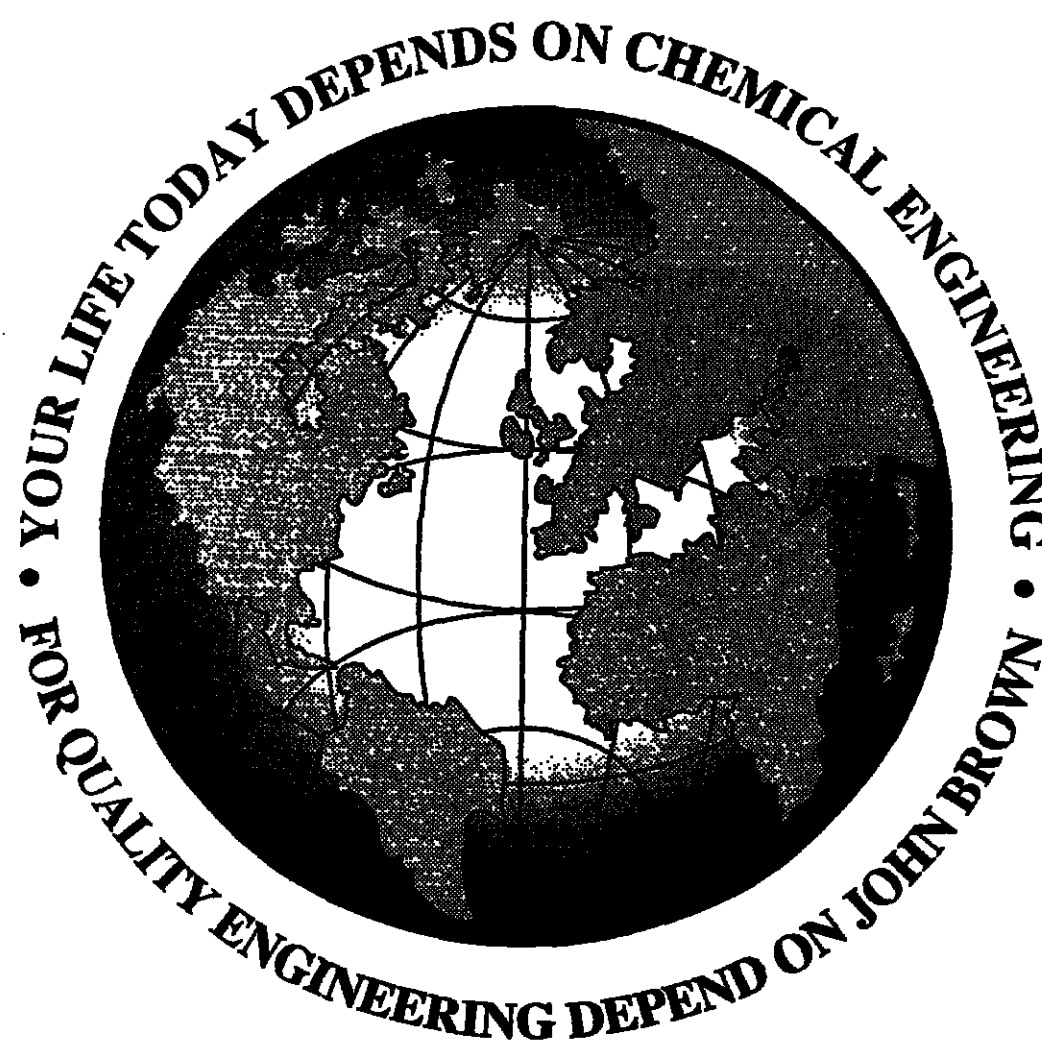
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Business invests, education delivers

Most university departments depend on the cash they receive from their industrial sponsors. David Rudnick describes the benefits of co-operation

Links between chemical industry companies and higher education are increasing. More companies are seeing the value of using the resources of academe for research, and universities and polytechnics are under mounting pressure to do "relevant" research, as traditional funding diminishes.

Companies are also awarding fellowships, to help bridge the growing pay gap between academe and industry. Most of the research projects at Cambridge's chemical engineering department have an industrial link. The research sponsors include Alcan, BASF, British Gas, British Oxygen, BP, Conoco, Glaxo, ICI, Mobil, Pfizer, Shell and Unilever. Additionally, some of the academic staff hold fellowships donated through the Esso Centenary Award or an ICI Fellowship.

The department owes its existence to an endowment from Shell. Although students are not obliged to do practical training in industry, most choose to do so during vacations. John Davidson, Shell Professor of chemical engineering, says most of his staff spend at least one summer vacation working in industry. At London's Imperial

College more than 100 chemical engineering students are sponsored by industry, and nearly all spend at least one summer vacation in industry. Representatives of the sponsoring companies are on a joint industry academic board, overseeing the chemical engineering course.

At University College London, Malcolm Lilly, professor of chemical engineering, says: "There are very few UK companies with whom we are not linked. One staff member has an Esso Fellowship, another an ICI Fellowship. Salaries for young academics are so low that these awards are necessary."

At Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), the chemical engineering department derives 40 per cent of its income from non-UCF funding, and its research and contract income amounts to £1 million a year. Loughborough University's chemical

engineering department gives a similar figure for its research contracts. The chemical engineering department of London's South Bank Polytechnic is researching safety and loss prevention with £1 million of external funding from, among others, AEA Technology, the Health and Safety Executive, ICI and Shell.

Some departments are starting to offer undergraduate courses that include non-technical subjects intended to help science graduates meet the commercial challenge of a unified European market. At UMIST, for example, students can combine chemical engineering with French or German, or environmental technology and biotechnology.

At the South Bank Polytechnic the departments of chemical engineering and business finance have introduced a course combining

process technology and management studies. Industry is taking an increasingly hands-on approach to the links. For two years BP has had liaison officers working alongside 12 university departments, including UMIST, Loughborough and Imperial College.

ICI, wishing to prevent a feared collapse of chemical engineering teaching and research in universities, has launched a scheme offering up to £5,000 a year for five years to two or three young academics to supplement their salary and persuade them to stay in teaching and research.

The cliché of cloistered academe disdainfully confronting vulgar businessmen has less validity in chemical engineering than in almost any other discipline. The academics are often former industrial executives, and the business community benefits from the transference of creative academic intellect.

Leaders in the money league

CHEMICAL engineers are Britain's highest-paid professional engineers, the latest Institution of Chemical Engineers survey reports. The average chartered chemical engineer's salary has risen 22 per cent since the 1988 survey, from £22,000 to £26,900 (David Rudnick writes). Average UK earnings have risen 18.5 per cent since 1988.

Market forces are the explanation. Engineers under 25 are particularly in demand; their median salaries have jumped 28 per cent, from £10,400 to £13,340. The median salary for a chartered chemical engineer aged between 25 and 29 is now £19,600, and the equivalent non-chartered person receives only £16,900.

The institution says there are continuing shortages of chemical engineers, and it expects the imbalance between supply and demand to grow. The general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "The institution expects a widening of the pay differential throughout the 1990s as demographic changes begin to bite and European recruiters cast their eye on Britain."

He says the top 10 per cent of chemical engineers can expect median salaries this year of £43,700, a 27 per cent increase over 1988. The top 6 per cent already earn more than £50,000, according to the survey.

However, Peter Davidson, ICI Engineering's process group manager, is worried about the disparity between academic and industrial salaries. "Of late, this has become substantial," he says.

A Science and Engineering Research Council inquiry shows that the salaries of lecturers and assistant lecturers are on average £2,500 a year less than those paid to their industry counterparts. The fear is that there will soon be a serious shortage of academic chemical engineers.

The problem is being tackled with industrial fellowship schemes to supplement young academics' salaries, while making them part of the industry-wide research effort.

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The woman's place

WHY is chemical engineering so attractive to women? The proportion of women undergraduates in the discipline is higher, and growing faster than in any other branch of engineering. In 1980, only 8 per cent of chemical engineering undergraduates were female. Today the figure is 26 per cent.

The Institution of Chemical Engineers attributes the influx to recruitment efforts by chemical engineering departments. Bradford, for example, runs a summer school exclusively for girls. The institution itself has been trying to change the image of engineering as exclusively a man's world. The institution believes industry should adopt employment practices more geared to women's needs as a pre-requisite to any significant increase in female engineers.

The institution's general secretary, Dr Trevor Evans, says: "Industry must make sure that when these young women engineers graduate, they receive the same rewards, status and opportunities to reach the highest levels of management that their male colleagues would normally enjoy." He insists that because a 25 per cent drop in the number of school-leavers is likely in the 1990s, the

number of women in the profession must be increased.

The institution recently admitted its first elected woman member, Anita Meldrum, to its governing council. Mrs Meldrum works in executive recruitment and specializes in schools liaison for the institution, co-ordinating, especially girls, into engineering.



Anita Meldrum

Two more women have since followed her on to the council. Jeanette Smith, of ICI, chairs the institution's northern branch, covering the chemical engineering area of Tyne and Teesside. Julie Partoe, an Aston University student, represents the interests of younger female members. If women have an affinity for this branch of engineering, it may be connected to its "life science" image. Dr Evans believes a woman has a right to be proud of being involved in an industry concerned with "green" issues.

Dr Evans says chemistry tends to be better taught to girls than physics or mathematics – possibly another reason for the popularity of chemical engineering. The association with food and pharmaceuticals means, too, that the subject lacks the "dirty rag and spanner" image of many other branches of engineering.

1989 INTAKE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

	Male	Female	Total	Female percentage
Universities				
Swansea	28	17	45	38
Birmingham	57	31	88	35
Aston	17	8	25	32
Imperial	55	23	78	30
Surrey	38	16	54	30
UMIST	40	16	56	29
Newcastle	43	17	60	28
Loughborough	54	20	74	27
Edinburgh	19	7	26	27
Sheffield	22	8	30	27
Bradford	55	19	74	26
Leeds	29	9	38	24
UCL	26	8	34	24
Strathclyde	49	15	64	23
Belfast	23	5	28	18
Exeter	9	2	11	18
Hertford	27	5	32	16
Bath	31	6	37	16
Nottingham	26	3	29	10
Cambridge	28	2	30	7
Totals	676	237	913	26

Exeter and Cambridge figures should be treated with caution as chemical engineering options are not made until after the first year

Polytechnics

	Male	Female	Total	Female percentage
South Bank	26	13	39	33
Wales	12	3	15	20
Teesside	46	7	53	13
East London	11	1	12	8
Totals	95	24	119	20

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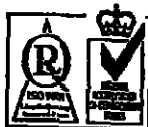
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After public anxieties, special research laboratories are being set up to study the effects on people of food additives, pesticides and industrial chemicals, Pearce Wright reports



at the MRC toxicology unit

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fly in the ointment

An outbreak of
screw-worm fly in
Libya may destroy
East Africa's
wildlife, reports
Andrew Lycett



The killer: never before detected outside the Americas

Enemy Act and ship millions of specially irradiated sterile male screw-worm flies to Libya. Once there, they will be released to mate and so interrupt the breeding cycle of the larvae-laying females.

Two-and-a-half times the size of an ordinary house fly, the blue-green female of the screw-worm species lays her eggs, which grow into larvae, on the moist, exposed parts of animals. Eyes and gaping wounds are particularly vulnerable. Occasionally, as its chilling Latin name implies, the fly also infects humans. Libya about 2,000 livestock cases and 20 human cases have been reported.

The real danger is that the screw-worm fly could quickly spread in North Africa, the Middle East and even Southern Europe. The fly likes warm, humid conditions and can travel up to 62 miles a day

in search of a new host. Mr Yates, who worked with the British colonial service in Kenya, fears that "it could spread up the Nile", if it reaches Libya's neighbour, Egypt.

Most at risk are herds of wild animals, which do not have easy access to veterinary care. Until the pest was eradicated, mortality among deer in Texas was as high as 80 per cent. "We could see the decimation of East Africa's wildlife," Mr Yates says.

Pesticides can do a limited job of countering the fly.

Biological control — releasing the sterile males — is much more effective. However, the only centre in the world which rears the irradiated flies is in Mexico. The plant is run by a special US-Mexican Commission and produces up to 250 million flies a week. The Gadafi connection caused a hold-up since the United States still accuses Libya, which it bombed in April 1986, of being a terrorist state.

Idriss Jazairi, IFAD's Oxford-educated president from Algeria, helped overcome this problem by presenting the

threat to livestock and humans as North African and regional rather than specifically Libyan. President Bush's special order maintains the fiction that the irradiated flies will be sold to a UN agency.

IFAD has taken the lead in identifying the screw-worm problem. It will shortly begin a \$1.7 million pilot eradication programme, which will involve four million sterile male flies a week being flown from Mexico. But formidable practical difficulties remain.

Until now, the flies have only survived in pupae form for up to 17 hours. The journey from Mexico to Tripoli is likely to take longer. New ways of preserving and transporting the flies will have to be found. Once the technology is tried and tested in its new conditions, a full eradication programme, releasing 50-100 million sterile males a week, will be introduced.

This should start by the end of the year and cost \$50 million over two years. IFAD notes that the conditions in which the screw-worm flourishes are found in Southern Europe. It hopes this will encourage the European Community to contribute.

It forecasts that if the screw-worm spreads to other coun-

tries, "losses of up to \$120 million could be expected annually". Eradication of the fly in the US and Mexico cost upwards of \$350 million. David Anderson, the assistant director of the joint US-Mexican Commission for Screw-worm Eradication, has said, rather more apocalyptically, that "there are short moments in time when man's choice of action affects the course of history".

"I believe this is one of those moments. The whole course of African history, and possibly that of the entire eastern hemisphere, is about to be changed," he said.

Quite how the screw-worm fly reached Tripoli is not clear. Dark mutterings of biological warfare, a CIA plot against Colonel Gadafi, have been heard. But these are unrealistic. As one IFAD official said, "The US pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into agriculture in neighbouring Egypt. Would it have put this at risk to get at Gadafi?"

Most likely, the pest arrived uninvited with a cargo of sheep from Uruguay in March 1988. The United States is clearly concerned that the fly has broken out of continental America. It is doing everything it can to expedite the legislative changes necessary to ship the flies to Libya. Meanwhile, the fly's name has subtly changed. The adjective American has been dropped, and the pest is now referred to as the new world screw-worm.

Looking to the future



PERIODIC breaks and regular eye examinations for those working with visual display terminals have been called for in a directive from the European Community. Terminals introduced after 1993 will have to meet the new EC regulations, with existing equipment being covered from 1997. Britain abstained from a vote on the decision, made by the EC Labour and Social Affairs Council, because it said the scope of the directive was too wide. Portable and laptop computers are excluded from the regulations but only if they are "not in prolonged use at a workstation". Employers will also have to ensure that screens are separate from keyboards and make both parts adjustable.

BRIEFING

according to two cosmonauts. "If we could have gotten together earlier, we would already have built an international observatory on the moon and we would be flying to Mars right now," Aleksei Leonov, the first man to walk in space, said in Boston last week at the opening of a Soviet space exhibit. Mr Leonov and fellow cosmonaut Valentin Lebedev, who lived in space for 211 days aboard Salyut 7 in 1982, said that, while the superpower competition initially spurred technical achievements, it eventually proved counterproductive. But both men support current discussions between the US and the Soviet Union to launch a joint manned mission to Mars.

A perfect copy

THE Japanese Government has given 37 Japanese manufacturers the go-ahead to mass produce digital audio-tape (DAT) recorders which can make virtually perfect copies of compact discs. JVC is expected to be first in the Japanese shops with a £400 DAT machine later this month. The new technology has suffered years of delay because of opposition by companies producing CDs, because of copying and a possible fall in sales of the expensive CD. Most existing DAT decks on sale in Europe and Japan have special devices in them to prevent true digital copies being made by converting digital signals into analogue and back again, losing some of the high quality.

Platelet prediction

DOCTORS may be better able to predict when someone is at risk of having a second heart attack by using a test that measures the speed with which platelets in the blood clump together. A team led by Dr Mieke Trip, of the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam, studied 149 heart attack survivors and examined the speed with which platelets, important for helping blood to clot, clumped in a test tube. The team reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that patients whose platelets clumped within 10 minutes were 5% times more likely to die within the next five years than patients whose platelets took longer to clump.

MAN would be flying to Mars today if the Soviet Union and United States had not stalled progress with their secretive space race during the 1960s, according to two cosmonauts.

Matthew May

Inside a computer's mind

IN A hall at the Computer Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, an Anglo-American team of designers, special effects experts and video-graphic animators are putting the final touches to an audacious educational exhibition of technology.

The display, to be officially unveiled in two weeks, is the world's first walk-through computer — a massive, two-storey working model of a desk-top model blown up 50 times and complete with pulsing lights simulating the flow of data and a giant spinning disc.

The exhibit, which cost £800,000, is the inspiration of Dr Oliver Strimpel, the Boston museum's executive director and former curator for mathematics and computing at London's Science Museum. The designer was Richard Fowler, the head of Britain's National Museum of Photog-

raphy, Film and Television and former senior designer at the Science Museum, where he once produced several highly acclaimed exhibitions, including a full-scale model of a nuclear reactor.

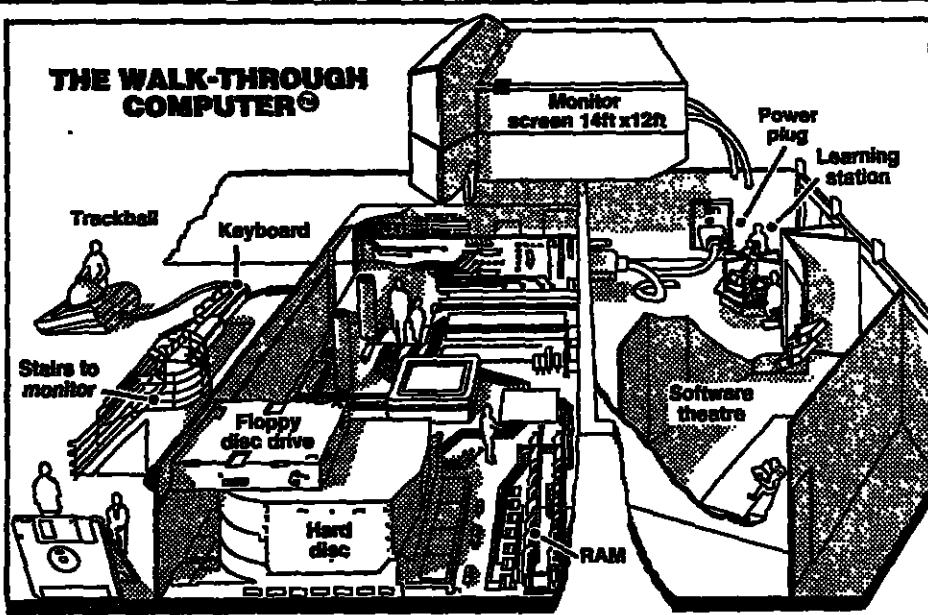
Through combining advanced hardware, software and special effects, the walk-through machine is able to demonstrate how computers process information from the flow of electrons in transistors through the algorithms of a program.

Dr Strimpel, who joined the Boston museum in 1984, believes a giant walk-through exhibit is the most effective method of educating the public to the mysteries of the computer by answering key questions, including how a computer works, how to communicate with a computer, how information is stored, the machine's inner workings and the roles of the

various components. To demonstrate a typical use, the exhibit runs a software program, called World Traveller, that allows visitors to operate the computer to tour the globe.

On arrival in the hall the first sight is of the exhibit's 108 sq ft monitor, 25-ft keyboard and six-foot-high floppy disc. When a 40-inch trackball is pointed at two cities, the computer, with design, equipment and building backed by companies including Digital Equipment, Apple, AT&T and Intel, begins calculating the shortest land route between the two cities. By stepping inside, people can see how the computer processes the data for the program while on the monitor slides are shown of sights along the way.

Designers have installed wall-to-floor video boards showing digital bits changed



into analogue pictures while view ports allow visitors to peer into the micro-processor, random access memory chips and key parts. A theatre has been included, complete with computer-generated animation by New York cartoonist Dean Winkler and a specially commissioned video by John Palfreman, of the BBC's science programme *Horizon*, who is in the US making a six-part series on the

history of the computer. In many ways, the Boston exhibit highlights how the computer is becoming a feature of mankind's cultural heritage and landscape.

NICK NUTTALL

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Continued on next page

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Golf's new devotees are reliant on buggies

By JANE WYATT

THE first national championships of a new sport for people with disabilities will be held at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxford, on Sunday. The British Sports Association for the Disabled's Trevor Sumner golf tournament is the outcome of an idea born 18 months ago.

Handicraft, which is the name of the new sport, was the brainchild of Andy Greasley, now chairman of the Handicraft Foundation, and other golf enthusiasts, including Ian Hayden, a Paralympic medal winner.

They believed that all people with disabilities should have the opportunity to enjoy the special spirit of golf. For a long time the game had been restricted to amputees and those with visual handicaps, because of the resistance from clubs to wheelchairs.

To solve this problem, the foundation advocates the use of electric buggies which have wider wheels and which, they claim, do not damage greens. In 18 months they have attracted around 100 regular players to the game. But future growth will be determined by the cost of the buggies, at around £1,700 each, and by the number of clubs prepared to accept them.

At the moment, handicrafters can play at half a dozen pitch and putt courses around the country. The foundation hires the facilities for a day and organises its own events, then transports the buggies to the location. This means that the game is limited to those who live near a participating course or who are able to travel long distances.

The eventual aim is for as many courses as possible to have their own buggies, so that prospective golfers can simply phone ahead and arrange to play. Hayden, the foundation's technical officer, sees local golf clubs as being prime movers in raising funds for their own buggies. Once the capital investment has been made the machines cost very little to recharge.

Hayden is particularly enthusiastic about the game because able-bodied and disabled golfers can play together, working from the same slightly modified handicapping system, and without the need for any complicated classification groupings.

On Sunday, for example, the 15 teams will consist of two able-bodied golfers playing alongside a golfer with a disability. Apart from the fact that the handicappers are seated there is only one other difference from regular golf and that is that the clubs are longer.

A combined team provides proof there are no easy games for rugby union touring parties in New Zealand

Penalty problems cannot prevent a victory for Scotland

FROM ALAN LORIMER
NELSON, NEW ZEALANDNelson Bays/Marlborough... 23
Scotland XV..... 23

THE adage that "no New Zealand team is easy to beat" was again verified yesterday at Nelson, where Scotland were given a testing match against the combined Nelson Bays/Marlborough team.

The Scotland captain, Alex Brewster, said: "We knew that they had a heavy pack," and, by implication, the loose-head prop meant that the Scottish forwards had had to work hard to overcome the local resistance.

Brewster's observation that "a dry day would have helped the Scottish side" was undoubtedly true. The heavy overnight rain had left the pitch at Trafalgar Park with a treacherously greasy surface, which the intermittent showers only made worse.

In these circumstances, Scotland, who fielded their reserve team save for Cronin and Burnell, derived less advantage from their mobile pack and faster back division, but nevertheless ought to have used their possession more gainfully.

One other worrying aspect for Scotland was the number of penalties that they conceded, almost four times as many as their opponents.

McGeechan, while concerned

that there is a difference in interpretation between the two hemispheres on such points as scrumming engagement, is nevertheless not being driven to taking corrective measures.

Yesterday, that flow of penalties against Scotland, apart from breaking the rhythm of their game, did not materially affect the result of the match, but only because the combined side's normally prolific goal-kicker, Stark, was well below his normal standard. For Scotland, Dods found the slippery surface equally difficult for goal-kicking, but the Gals full back was safe under the high ball and again looked quick with the ball in hand, particularly so in the second half when the Scots moved the ball wide to good effect.

By contrast, the first half was a frustrating period in which both Moore and Shiel came close to scoring. When they did finally break the early stalemate, it was a goal that was created by the half back, Oliver, and Wyllie, and finished by the forwards. Oliver made the initial surge from lineout possession, Wyllie carried on, but the key line player was Shiel, the prop, playing up quickly to set up a ruck before first Cronin and then Marshall lunged at the line, the No. 8 producing the try which Dods converted.

Stark's first penalty for the

combined side ate into Scotland's lead, which they extended at the start of the second half. From a lineout, Oliver passed to Wyllie, whose fast break on the blind side created a try for the right wing, Moore.

Moore had to wait only a few minutes for his second try. Dods initially confused the combined side's defence with a well-placed kick, out of frustration at winning less ball up front, they decided to run. The centre, Alesana, was grounded by a maul tackle from Scotland's left wing, Porter, and with Redmond on hand to pick up and provide the link, Moore had an easy run in for his try.

After Dods and Stark had each put over penalties, Scotland secured their fourth try. From a scrum close to the combined side's try-line, Oliver broke wide but, sensing that the cover had moved wide, he turned back towards his forward and found Shiel. From a scrum close to the combined side's try-line, Oliver broke wide but, sensing that the cover had moved wide, he turned back towards his forward and found Shiel.

SCOTLAND XV: P. Dods, A. Alesana, G. Shiel, S. Porter, D. Wyllie, G. Burnell, D. Marshall, D. Cronin, A. B. Stewart, G. Marshall, R. Marshall, M. Farnworth (Wellington).

Huge pack will lead France in first test

FROM PETER BILLS
SYDNEY

FRANCE have chosen one of the biggest packs of forwards in their history to meet the Australians in the first international match of their tour, in Sydney on Saturday.

The extraordinary height and bulk in the back five of the scrum should give France a decisive advantage in the lineout and ensure a solid scrumgame, but height and power have been chosen at the expense of mobility and it is the absence of the latter which the Australians hope to exploit.

The French back row is a new combination full of interesting personalities. The young Moroccan, Benazzi, wins his first cap at open-side flanker, while another newcomer, Deslandes, of the Racing club, plays as a blind-side flanker. The coach, Jacques Fouroux, mindful of the need for dynamic driving off the back of the lineout and scrum base, has asked the South African-born Eric Melville to play the role Roger Untch fulfilled for England in 1980 on the blind-side flank. Melville, at 6ft 3in and weighing 108kg, is one of the smaller-looking of the back-five giants. Deslandes weighs 105kg but is 6ft 5in tall, and Benazzi is 111kg and 6ft 4in.

Paired with these three huge back-row men are the young locks, Duvigneau who is 6ft 5in and 112kg, and Roumieu, at 6ft 6in the tallest player in the team and weighing 110kg. A forward juggernaut is not a new expression in rugby, but this French pack looks massive by any comparison.

Outside the scrum, the unavailability of Mesnel through injury means a chance in senior international rugby for Langlade to play alongside Philippe Sella in the centre. Fouroux calls him a "breakaway flanker, the flier in defence" for his crushing tackles and total commitment.

The front row is also physically big, but Fouroux was so concerned by their rustiness and technique against New South Wales last weekend that he asked the former Australian international, Topo Rodriguez, to take a scrumming session for the tourists.

The French coach said: "These players will suit the game we wish to play. In Saragbourg last winter, when Australia beat us, they had bigger men in the lineout and we were, in desperation, trying to tackle them off the back of the scrum and lineout. Now we have the hard men and hope to drive and drive."

FRANCE XV: Benazzi (captain), S. Weller, P. Sella, J.C. Langlade, P. Duvigneau, E. Melville, D. Roumieu, T. Duvigneau, G. Deslandes, D. Benazzi, C. Deslandes.



Sella: plays with new partner in the centre

Three leaving Nottingham

NOTTINGHAM RFC officials yesterday expressed their disappointment that Neil Back, their England Under-21 flanker, will be leaving the club for purely rugby reasons since Dusty Hare in 1977. He also moved to Leicester.

Gavin Baldwin, Loughborough Students' highly rated young prop forward who club or they will be out of work."

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Why the original plans for the 1991 World Student Games in Yorkshire were too ambitious

Still a way out for Sheffield

By DON ANTHONY

THE continuing problems of the Sheffield University bid have not been solved.

The proposed solutions to the financial pressures threatening the staging of the World Student Games in Sheffield next summer are boringly and predictably convergent. Task forces from the British Olympic Association, the Sports Council, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation will land on the beaches and save the day. A Marshall Plan will be devised. British sport will have eggs on its face - but not all down its suit. We can then return to making Olympic bids without student sideshows baring the true soul of British sport.

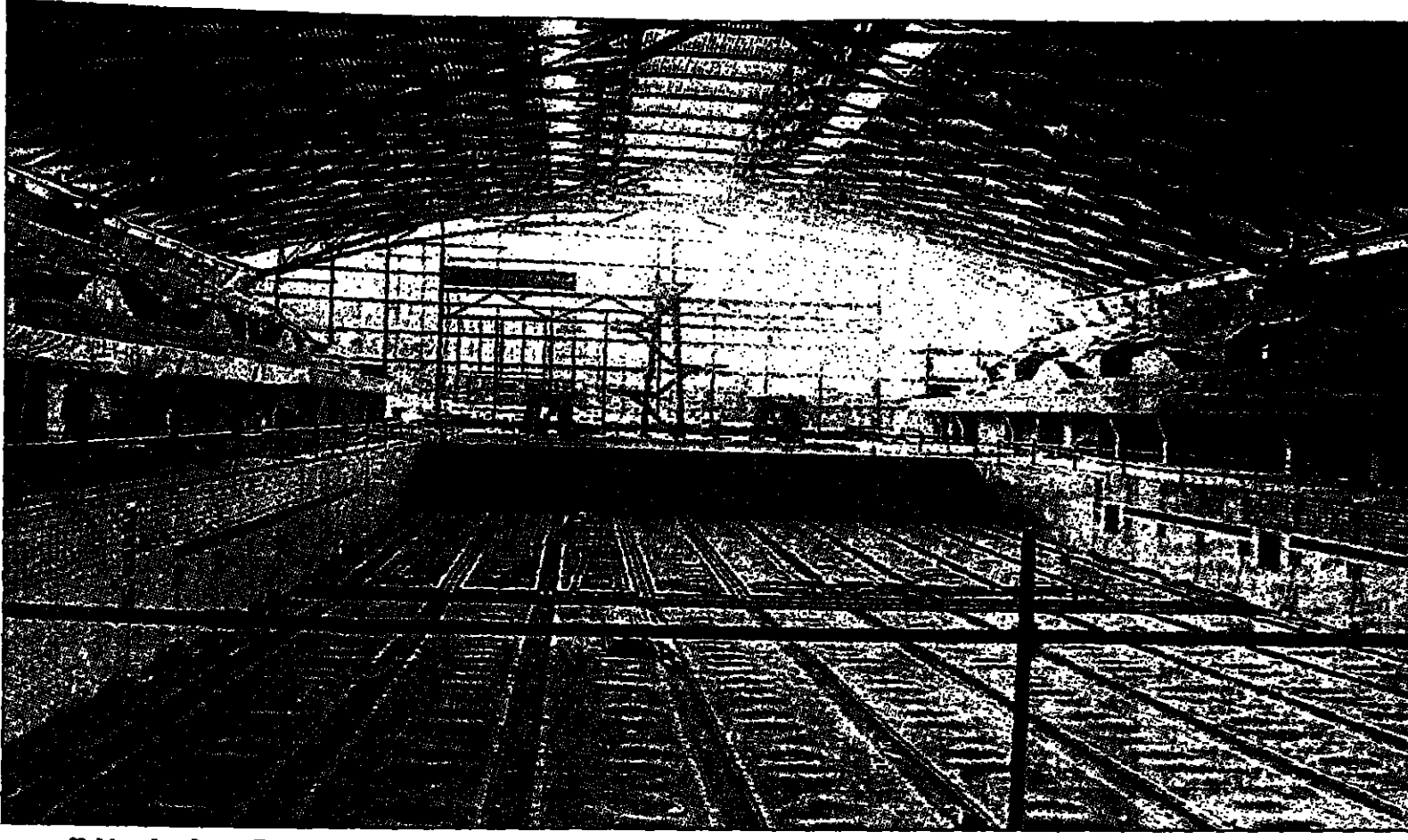
In many ways, the current problems are necessary and welcome. The idea was never truly thought through. The fact that Brazil had to abandon the last Universiade should have stimulated our powers of analysis. But it didn't.

It was decided to organise a mini-Olympics in the confident expectation that the television moguls would fall over themselves to sign contracts, yet television has never shown much interest in the World Student Games.

The Sheffield Games were "privatised". The facts are that privatisation of a major world sports event just does not work - or rather it has never truly been tried. The Los Angeles model is trotted out to boost the morale of the privatisers. Los Angeles is seen through Coca-Cola tinted glasses blurred by a McDonald's smokescreen. The 1984 Olympic Games, however, were merely topped-up by commercial sponsors.

The operation was based on massive community investment in sport and recreation - in schools, in communities, in universities. State universities, in particular, furnished the elite with four-year sports scholarships. Most of the facilities were city or university-owned. The great United States money-spinning sports basketball and American football - are usually university-based with the profits ploughed back into physical education departments.

Since the discovery of oil in California, farsighted laws have ensured that a percentage



Taking the plunge: The Ponds Forge swimming complex, one of the expensive facilities being built for the troubled Sheffield Universiade

of the profits should be put back into recreational amenities for the populace - not too distant from the coastline. Hence the abundance of golf courses, marinas, and the like.

On top of this arrive the commercial boys - generous and patriotic. For example, 3M taking on board all the administrative costs of the three United States Olympic Committee (USOC) training centres at Colorado Springs, Lake Placid and San Diego. The city of Colorado Springs rents the USOC a complete sports-excellence complex for \$1 a year. The city of San Diego endeavours to assure all members of US elite squads based there a job or a scholarship. A heady brew. But a far cry from Sheffield 1991 Ltd.

Furthermore, the world does not seem happy about a mini-Olympics for students. It seems to tolerate, indeed welcomes, one great bonanza every four years. The greatest show on earth. But a second one, for a group already seen by many as pampered and

privileged? Why not also for the rest of the world's specialised groups - bank clerks, bricklayers, the unemployed?

Some specialised groups do have their global sports meetings - the military, for example - but here training, equipment, and transportation are all paid for by governments. Medical doctors have their own sports championships - but these are low key and self-financed, although a concurrent seminar would probably make the whole event tax-allowable.

There are other down-market, modest events of this kind. The Yugoslavs organised the 1987 World Student Games and they used a mix of Balkan public and private enterprise. They also have an apt proverb - "If you are in the soup, at least enjoy the taste of it." Sheffield and Britain are in the soup.

So let us look at the basic ingredients. Student sport in Britain became a model for the world. It was largely self-

organised, helped along by financial subsidies from the university and/or state. In working time a large body of intellectuals enjoyed three or four, or more, years of study in which active sport was part of the daily lifestyle. Transport, accommodation, clothing, coaching, all provided at knock-down prices. Young people facilitated to experience organisation, like captaincy, secretaryship, chairmanship and all other such tasks which underpin sport.

It provided a nice balance to the brainwork; it provided practice for the administrative skills used later in business, the civil service and diplomacy. And, let us be fair, many of those who enjoyed the experience continued to serve the voluntary sports movement for a lifetime, almost as a moral duty. Voluntary public service through the medium of sport. Almost all leaders of sports administrators in this country - and perhaps in the world - came

through this route; even those who are now paid as part of a growing professional cadre of sports administrators.

We can still make a good soup from these raw materials. But we can't make a Christmas cake. The soup we can make would focus on self-organisation (sports and all). It would focus on what students could do for the rest of the community in sport - now and later. It would focus on the creation of an organisational model which might be exportable, especially to the Third World, and thus help to make world student sports activities an ongoing and viable experience for students everywhere.

It could also usefully look more closely at the bottom-up problems and less at the top-down attractions. "Universiade" does still symbolise a certain hierarchy in student sport. Most for the universities, less for the polytechnics and colleges. A giant investment at the top - to save faces - accompanied by a

declining sports profile at the club level would not go down well with the British public. Or the thinking student body.

I do not write in a spirit of sour grapes. I was a student. I spend much of my life in academia. I enjoy and appreciate the advantages, especially in sport. I also want everyone else to share them. We still have a year to sort things out. Get back to basics. House the students in local homes and tents if need be. Get the students doing their own thing in regard to organisation. Devise a system which works for Sheffield and also for Dar es Salaam. Make some really exciting new shapes from the old bricks.

An exercise conducted in this spirit could excite sponsors. It should embarrass government into action. It would enable the event to take place. And it would do the world a favour.

Dr Don Anthony is a University lecturer and president of the English Volleyball Association.

EQUESTRIANISM

Thomson hears the call for instant action

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY Thomson, who is on the shortlist for the world three-day event championships, has competed in four competitions in as many weeks and continues her frantic schedule this weekend when she attempts a second win at the MacConal-Mason Bramham International Three-Day Event.

The event, which starts today at Bramham Park, near Wetherby, West Yorkshire, has attracted several leading competitors, among them Mark Todd, the dual Olympic gold medal winner, Robert Lennart, a former national champion, and Rodney Powell, also shortlisted for the world championships.

Thomson, who was third on King George at Badminton last month, has since competed at Punchestown in Ireland, where she had to retire King Samuel on the cross country; at Windsor, where she had a run-out on The Legislator; and at Breda in the Netherlands, where she dropped from first to fifth place after King Max knocked down three show-jumping fences.

At Bramham Park she rides King William, a seven-year-old gelding who finished fifth in his first three-day event in Lions d'Angers last year. "I'm just

hoping for a good clear round on Saturday," she said. Rodney Powell will be similarly grateful if all goes well over the cross country course on Saturday. The European team when she attempts a second win at the MacConal-Mason Bramham International Three-Day Event.

Where many riders use Bramham as a stepping-stone to Burghley or Badminton, Mark Todd is doing the reverse. He will ride the experienced 12-year-old Michaelmas Day, a horse who showed a precocious talent as a seven-year-old (winning at Rotherfield Park and finishing third at Bockelo in the Netherlands) but has since been beset by minor injuries.

Todd, who had a fall with him at Badminton, describes him as "a good horse on his day" and intends to prove that this weekend.

The event, which also hosts the Young Riders national championship, was a strong foreign entry, with riders from 11 nations. It begins today with two days of dressage followed by cross-country on Saturday and show-jumping on Sunday.

GYMNASTICS

Training pays off

By PETER AVKROYD

THE British Amateur Gymnastics Association's policy of concentrated training is paying off, judging by successes at big international events this season. At the same time there is concern at the cost of sustaining leading gymnasts' increased and longer training sessions, intended to produce outstanding performances at the 1992 Olympic Games at Barcelona.

Within the last fortnight, Neil Thomas, a national champion, has won the first British medal in the European championships since 1957, taking the bronze for vault at Lausanne. Last week, at the Grand Prix d'Italia at Bolzano, the last qualifying tournament for this year's World Cup, he captured the gold medal for floor.

Britain have finished in fifth place after eight qualifying events, enabling them to send one male gymnast to the World Cup finals at Brussels in October.

In the same period, the leading British women, too, have achieved a resounding success at

the World School Games in Bruges, seizing the team gold medal ahead of 15 countries, including the Soviet Union and Hungary. Sam Moseley, the British champion, also won gold in the individual all-round championship and three silver medals for vault, beam and floor.

In rhythmic gymnastics, Viva Savelle, the national No. 2, gained Britain's first international medal, at the Debrecen tournament in Hungary, when she took a bronze medal in the ball final.

Paul Williams, the deputy president of the B.A.G., said: "Our outlook is certainly bright, but it depends upon bringing our top gymnasts together for more frequent, more sustained training. In turn, generated higher costs in areas such as travel, accommodation and basic expenses, for which funding was short."

Williams said: "We owe our gymnasts who are doing so well the chance of honing their skills with minimum hassle."

BASKETBALL

Detroit led to victory by Thomas

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (Reuters) - Isiah Thomas scored 14 points in five minutes of the fourth quarter to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 105-99 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in the opening game of the National Basketball Association championship series on Tuesday.

Portland held a 90-80 lead with a little more than seven minutes remaining in the game, but the Pistons, the defending champions, recovered, scoring 25 points to Portland's nine before the end.

Thomas hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 94, followed with another jump shot, and then scored three more points to give Detroit a 99-94 lead with 1min 48sec left.

The second game of the best-of-seven series will be played in Detroit, and the following three games are scheduled for Portland.

Namath's visit
JOE Namath, the former New York Jets quarterback, will be among a party of past and present National Football League American football players who are flying to Britain next week. The star-studded party will visit Manchester (June 13), Edinburgh (June 14), Glasgow (June 15), Birmingham (June 16), Southampton and Brighton (June 18) and London (June 19).

No end to killing
Sir, On one sports page (May 30) you described the terrible slaughter of birds that takes place in Italy each spring. I was incensed by what I read but, unable to do anything about it at that instant, turned for solace to another of the sports pages.

The first headline to attract my attention was "Higgins has his birds". It was there to be no end to the slaughter?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD A. PRINCE,
St Laurence,
13 Bazelth Road,
Rotherham, East Sussex.

What's in a name?
From Mr Robert White
Sir, Why do golf clubs, especially new ones, bother to name the holes on their course?

I have never, in 40 years of playing golf, heard anyone say "I got a birdie at Dingle Dell" or "I dropped a shot at Twa Burnes".

I suppose the Japanese and Americans have come to expect it. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WHITE,
20 Ravensbourne,
Berwick upon Tweed,
Northumberland.

Hard on the ear
From Mr George F. Balfour
Sir, Mr Ables (Sports Letters, May 31) raises the subject of the pronunciation of golfers' names.

There are two top-class Americans, Scott Hoch and Gary Koch, whose names apparently rhyme with each other. One wonders whether they share an appreciation of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE F. BALFOUR,
3 Budd's Close,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

FIXTURES

CRICKET

First Cornhill Test
11.0, 90 overs minimum

TRENT BRIDGE: England v New Zealand

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE
championship
11.0, 110 overs minimum

ILFORD: Essex v Gloucestershire

BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v Somerset

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Kent v Yorkshire

LORDS: Middlesex v Warwickshire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

THE OVAL: Surrey v Derbyshire

Other match
11.30-3.30

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Lancashire v Gloucestershire v Staffordshire

RAPID CRICKETLINE SECOND 20
CHAMPIONSHIP: Lancashire v Surrey; Gloucestershire v Hampshire; Warwickshire v Leicestershire; Middlesex v Kent; Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire; Kent v Essex; Lancashire v Gloucestershire; Warwickshire v Essex; Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Milk Race, Penryn to Morwenstow

GOLF: Amateur championship (first/second), Scottish Assistants Matchplay (Chalmers)

SNOWMOBILE: Asen Open qualifying round (Blackpool)

SPEEDWAY: National League (Leamington)

FOOTBALL: Second leg: Middleborough v Edinburgh

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN SPORTS: 8.30-9.00pm

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL: 12.30-1.30pm (satellite)

BASINGSTOKE: 6.15-7.15pm: Highlights of Major League from the United States

BOXING: 12.30-1.30pm: Professional event from the United States

CRICKET: 12.30-1.30pm: 1st/2nd Test: England v New Zealand

CRICKET: 1.30-2.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 2.30-3.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 3.30-4.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 4.30-5.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 5.30-6.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 6.30-7.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 7.30-8.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 8.30-9.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 9.30-10.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

CRICKET: 10.30-11.30pm: Coverage of the First Cornhill Test: First day from Trent Bridge

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Problems of England followers

From Mr N. J. Phillips and others

Sir, Before publishing stories condemning English supporters for arriving at the World Cup finals without tickets, buying on the black market and ending up in the wrong part of the ground, consider how difficult it has been to acquire them in the UK.

The alternatives were to sign up for an official tour at £800-£900 plus tickets or to arrange a self-organised trip. The latter was our choice.

As soon as the draw was made in December we booked and accommodation in Sardinia, the minibus and ferry crossings for both the Channel and Ligurian Sea. By January we were fully organised and members began to pay in full.

We contacted the FA, then the England Travel Club. We filled out the forms, provided photos and paid our money. At least now we were able to apply for tickets.

On April 12 we received the application forms. Providing details and proof of travel and accommodation was no problem. We had known these particulars for almost three months.

For phase one (Sardinia), tickets are priced at £55, £33, £17 and £9 per game. We were

told "that a large number of tickets allocated to the FA are in category 1 (£55) and, therefore, members requiring tickets at this price have more chance of being successful." A second category choice had to be made and open cheques forwarded. This we did on April 23.

At the end of May, the FA did not yet decide on the basis of allocation. They had problems as the majority of people had chosen seats at £9 and £17, of which they have very few. Apparently FIFA allocate tickets directly to approved travel agents and then to the national associations, who receive 7% per cent of each game they are involved in.

The FA received the tickets on May 23, of which approximately three-quarters were at £55, for allocation less than 10 days before we were due to sail.

As you can imagine, having gone to such expense, to organise such a trip, we would travel to Sardinia regardless of whether we received tickets or not. It is the obstacles we have faced which go some small way to creating confusion and tension at England's overseas venues.

Yours sincerely,
N. J. PHILLIPS, S. J. TAPPER,
R. A. PLASTOW, S. J. TAYLOR,
5 Veronica Lodge,
174 Bedford Hill, SW12.

European chasm

From Mr Philip Buckingham

Sir, Living in a nation which follows closely the events of football, it is not surprising that the English football on television and in the Press is a salutary experience, since it highlights the following points:

1. How great the chasm has become between the skill levels of footballers in the rest of Europe compared with those in the English league. Evidence for this comes at both club and national levels, inasmuch as the Italian, West German and Spanish leagues are hardly overflowing with English talent.

2. The mediocrity of the English league is highlighted by the fact that players are required to work continually on their fitness in order to play the number of games required by the league programme and the numerous cup competitions. In Italy the system works to the benefit of the players as they have to play only one league game every week, unless special circumstances apply. Over and above this, there is the Italian Cup, which starts with only the top two divisions, and the European cups. Players can therefore hope their skills on the training ground.

3. The gap in skills at national level was expressed most simply on the field at Wembley recently when the Uruguayans defeated England with a display of consummate skill, laced with the type of cynical defensive play associated with South American sides. On the ball Uruguay looked far more comfortable than England, with

hardly a bad pass. To give England their due, they did score a superlative goal.

4. The burden of expectation heaped on the events of the World Cup in football - it is equalled in cricket and rugby. It can also be said that under Bobby Robson the England playing record has been acceptable, but does it mean that the national side has progressed during his tenure? I would suggest not by the difficulty the side has in beating second rate teams. During the past four years, exactly at the time when they have been starved of the possibility of playing against foreign opposition at club level, Robson has continued to rely upon players whose weaknesses were already manifest.

5. Talk of replacements for Robson has centred on Graham Taylor, Terry Venables, Brian Clough and Howard Kendall. Yet there is one name which undoubtedly would not feature on anyone's list - journalists or FA executive committee member - as either manager or coach: Osvaldo Ardiles. This is a man who sacrificed everything eight years ago by turning his back on his country of birth to remain in his adopted country, England, until hounded out by hostile public opinion, and who would reverse the otherwise continuing slide of our national side towards mediocrity as surely as he has transformed Swindon Town into one of the most attractive and successful sides within one season.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BUCKINGHAM,
Viale Maine 21,
Milan, Italy.

Greyhound racing blow

From the Secretary of NGRC

Racecourse Promoters

Sir, On May 24 the Chancellor told the House of Commons that football pools betting duty, due to be cut from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent on May 28, would be the means to provide an estimated £100 million to football clubs during the next five years - only possible because of an agreement reached with the Football League, Football Trust and pools companies.

In other words, by the Government reducing taxation, the pools companies are made free to divert punters' money from the Treasury to the football industry to help cover the cost of improvements imposed on them by Government.

What a funny world it is. Although the greyhound racing industry has an excellent safety record and has never experienced anything remotely resembling a disaster, it is to be caught up in the diversion of £100 million of supporters' cash. Greyhound racing is left to find its own way out of the mess that football - and only football - has got it into, and is still denied by Government any help from a betting levy.

Horse racing for many years, and now football, enjoys this benefit. Greyhound racing is still to receive nothing, but must foot this enormous new bill imposed upon it by football's neglect - not as a consequence of lives lost at greyhound racing (there have been none), but directly because of lives lost at football.

Football has been found guilty but is to be let off with a subsidised caution. Greyhound racing is innocent but is to be heavily fined, just for being in the vicinity.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. JAMES,
NGRC,
Racecourse Promoters Ltd.,
Wimbledon Stadium,
Plough Lane, SW17.

Three too many
From Mr Claudio Camali

Sir, Mr Greber's comments on Italian football hooliganism (May 31) were not entirely accurate.

At the Bologna-Florenzina game the Fiorentina hooligans did attack a train carrying Bologna supporters but there were no deaths. At the Lazio-Atalanta game there were clashes between home supporters and the police before the match and in its later stages, without dozens of injuries. At the Cesena-Juventus match, a Cesena supporter was stabbed by a Juventus hooligan; fortunately the attack was not fatal.

During the last 15 years of Italian domestic football there have been three deaths com-

On humans and racehorses

From Mr John A. Murphy

Sir, I read with interest Sebastian Coe's article on the training of humans and racehorses (June 4).

It seems to me that runners' times have improved for the following reasons:

1. Running surfaces are much faster.

2. Better nutrition.

3. Coaching now received by more runners.

4. Harder training. The runner knows the world mile record has been broken by 20 seconds since 1936.

5. More of the world's increasing population are taking to the sport.

6. Better medical facilities.

The horse on the other hand has received little of the runner's benefits. Inbreeding may be detrimental to the improving speed and stamina. The racehorse's physique is termed syndromorphosis. My own investigations into the possible relationships between body weight, voice box area (larynx) and maximum running speed is based upon over 900 mammalian specimens. This shows a constant scaling between these parameters for all except the cheetah, which, in fact, "breath holds" whilst sprinting the 200 metres in which it must run down its prey.

Since the horse has exactly the same respiratory system as other terrestrial mammals, there is no good reason why selective breeding should materially affect performance except for overall fitness and motivation.

Surely yet another example of a profitable enterprise based largely on mythology.

Yours faithfully,
D.F.N. HARRISON,
The Institute of Laryngology and Otology,
330-332 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Up to standard
From Dr J.G.P. Williams

Sir, Mr Bertram Hesmondhalgh's point (May 31) regarding batting gloves and protection is well made. Damages ought to be reclaimable but only probably if batting gloves are made and

conform to BS6183 which Standard has been in existence for nine years.

England's revival under examination

Telephone Information Services plc, 24-26 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DL. Calls charged at 25p per minute, cheap rate, 30p per minute at all other times.

Playing his final hand

"It seems that in every series played now, there are far too many incidents involving umpires, time-wasting and bad behaviour. It has to be of some concern and I believe legislation must be that much tougher to get rid of it."

because a Test is a Test, no matter where it is played."

Hadlee's hand was broken by a ball from Chris Lewis at the Oval. Even the New Zealand management was dubious over his prospects for the first Test, while others

It will be Hadlee's fifth Test on this ground. The first three were lost but, in 1986, he took 10 wickets and scored 68 in New Zealand's historic win. He insists: "This really is the end. If there is to be another comeback it will be as a coach or a manager. My life will change direction next month because at 39, it really is harder each day to get out of bed and train."



months ago, the Austrian was hobbling about on crutches, his left leg smashed to pieces after being hit by a car in Miami in March.

The timing of the accident was particularly cruel; Muster had just started to break

the Yugoslav's mistakes multiplied and Muster simply battered his way to a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 6-3 victory. Their hopes for something better were soon dashed by Champion, who offered only token resistance to Gómez.

Surprisingly, considering he has been at it for a decade, Gómez has never been in a grand slam singles semi-final before. With Gustafsson pull-

Britain's position of power under attack

His target is the as-yet unratified 89.10 metres thrown by Patrik Boden, of Sweden, in March. Backley threw 88.46 metres in Cardiff.

The 40-year-old fitness fanatic will equal Pat Jennings'

North and Central America, did not get the required 75 per cent of the vote.

"Sooner or later they will have to change, you have to have some equality of some sort," David Phiri, chairman

Even in World Cup qualifying Africa feels under-represented. It is allotted only two teams at the World Cup, compared to 14 for Europe. "There is an injustice," Elmaanry said. "There is no

decided by tribunal (Steve Acteson writes).

● At an emergency board meeting in London yesterday, Hibernian rejected a takeover bid of £6.12 million by Wal-

Extra sp

disposing of her opponents with such ease that she is matching Steffi Graf for swiftness of execution. In reaching the semi-final of her first grand slam, she has never

The main problem for Sees is respiratory. Has she got enough puff left to blow Capriati away? She has looked very tired after her last two matches and has not enjoyed an easy ride through the ranks.

churchill

On line to serve you

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Canada to decide whether Johnson can resume

The tests, conducted by the **Medicine Council of Canada**

Britain and East German head on June 29, apparently orders from the Government suggests no softening of the Charest is no longer in office successor is awaiting report before making

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...taking drugs
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...national ch
...British of
...themselves

ould not be allowed to
tain except in inter-
ionships or matches.
als like to think of
world leaders on drug
tested
such
insist
chang
said.

D 2 ★★★★★

and he said yesterday that no order was made. "I am going to in future that they ask for to be notified in writing," he